2
George Asakura
Drowning Love

Drowning
Love

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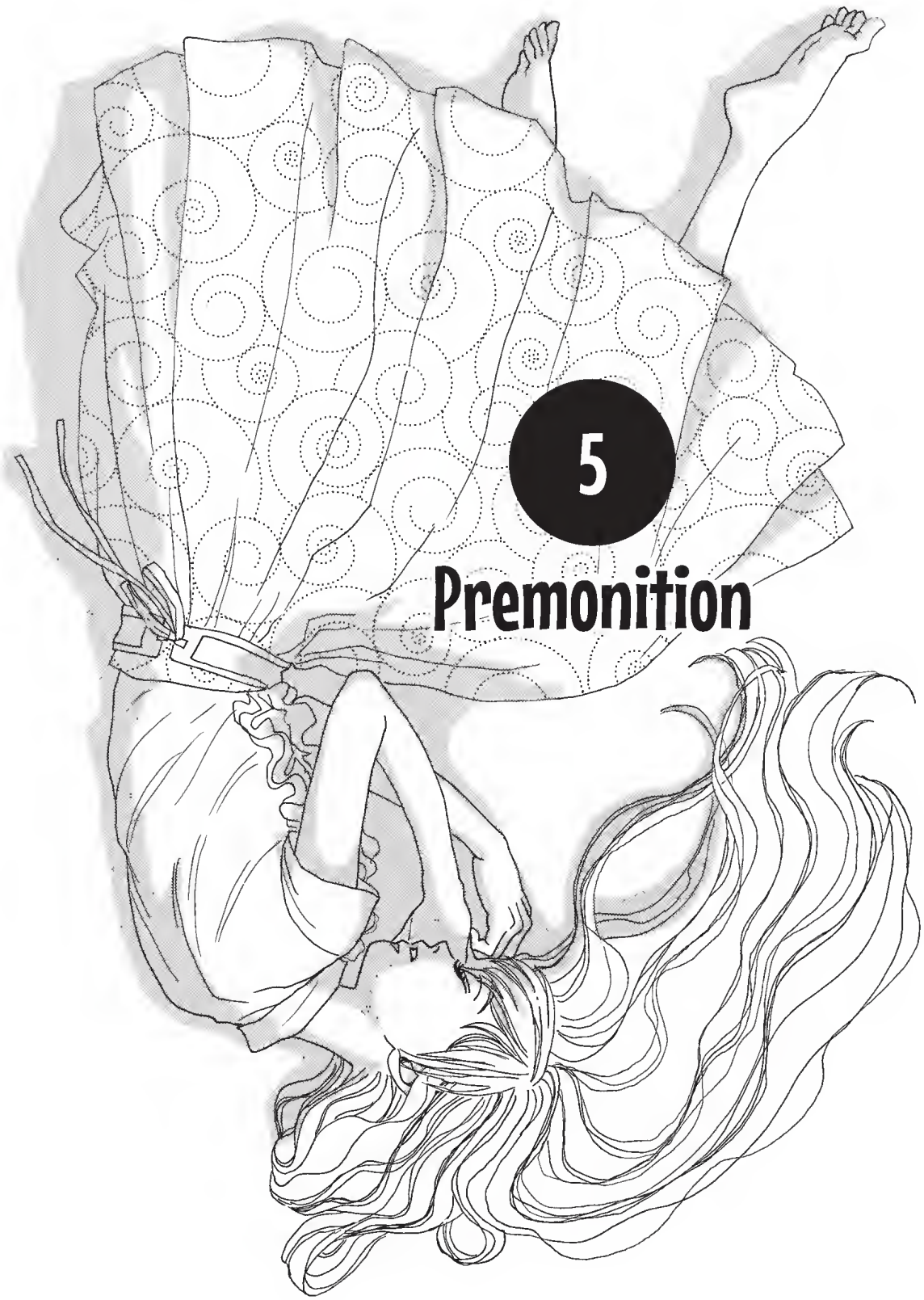
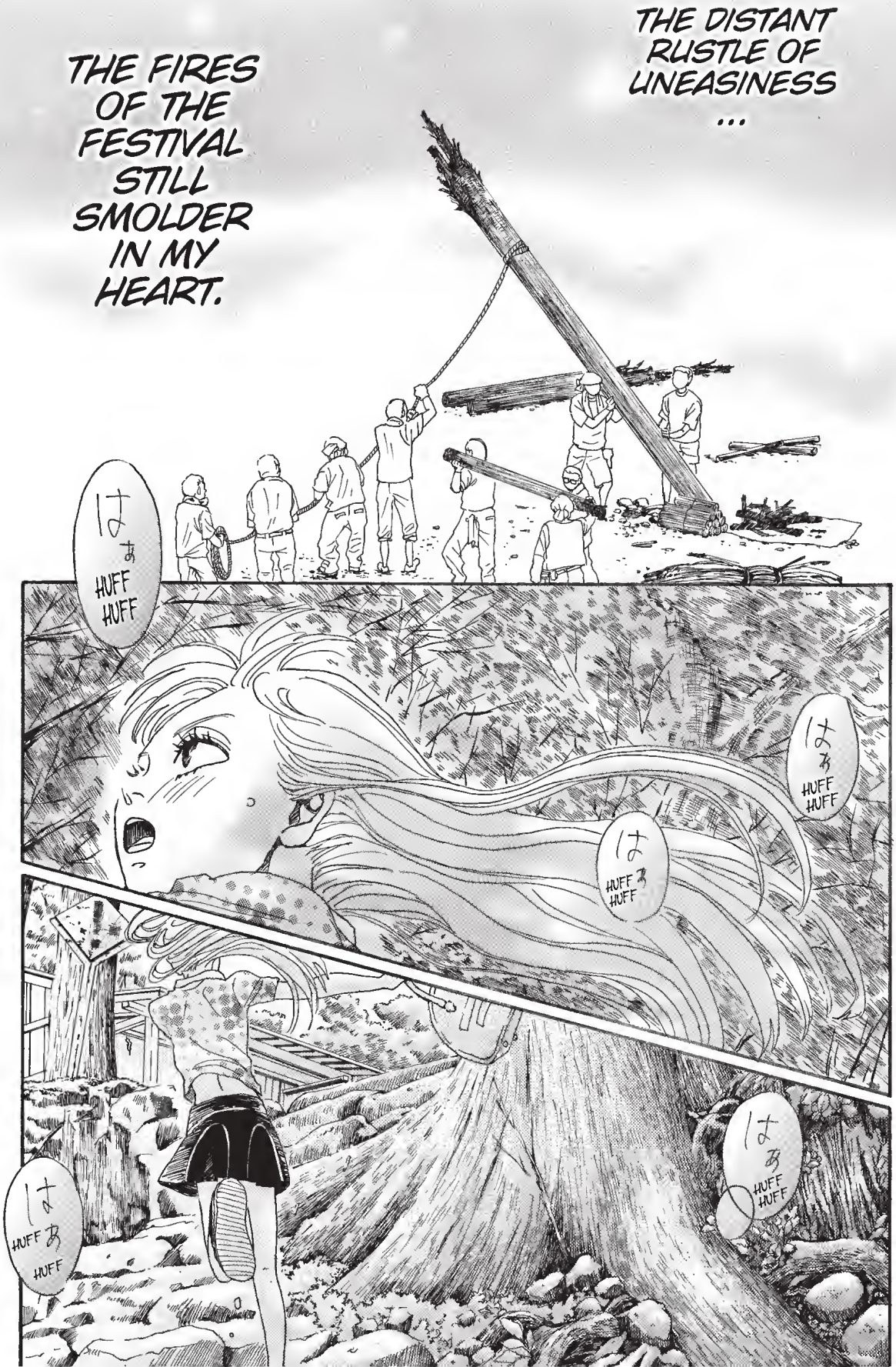
THE STORY SO FAR...

DESPONDENT OVER HER NEW COUNTRYSIDE LIFE, THE YOUNG FASHION MODEL NATSUME, AGE 12, AND AN INTRIGUING CLASSMATE, KOU, DECIDE TO RUN AWAY. NATSUME BEGINS TO REALIZE HER FEELINGS TOWARDS KOU MAY RUN DEEPER THAN SHE THOUGHT. SOON AFTER, NATSUME UNEXPECTEDLY RECEIVES AN INVITATION FROM A FAMOUS PHOTOGRAPHER TO DO A NUDE PHOTO SHOOT! WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT IN NATSUME'S PURSUIT OF KOU?

Drowning
Love

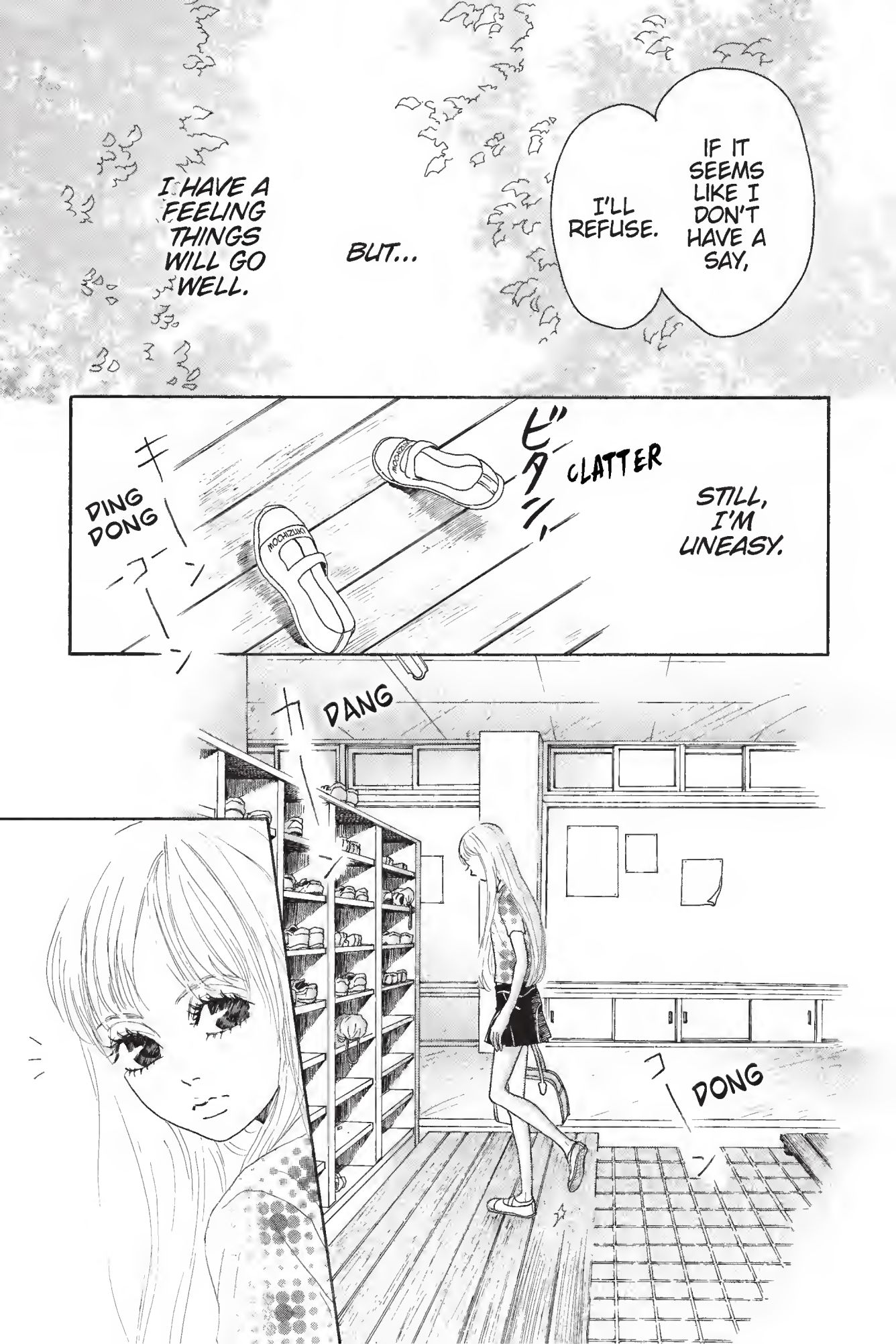


5 Premonition

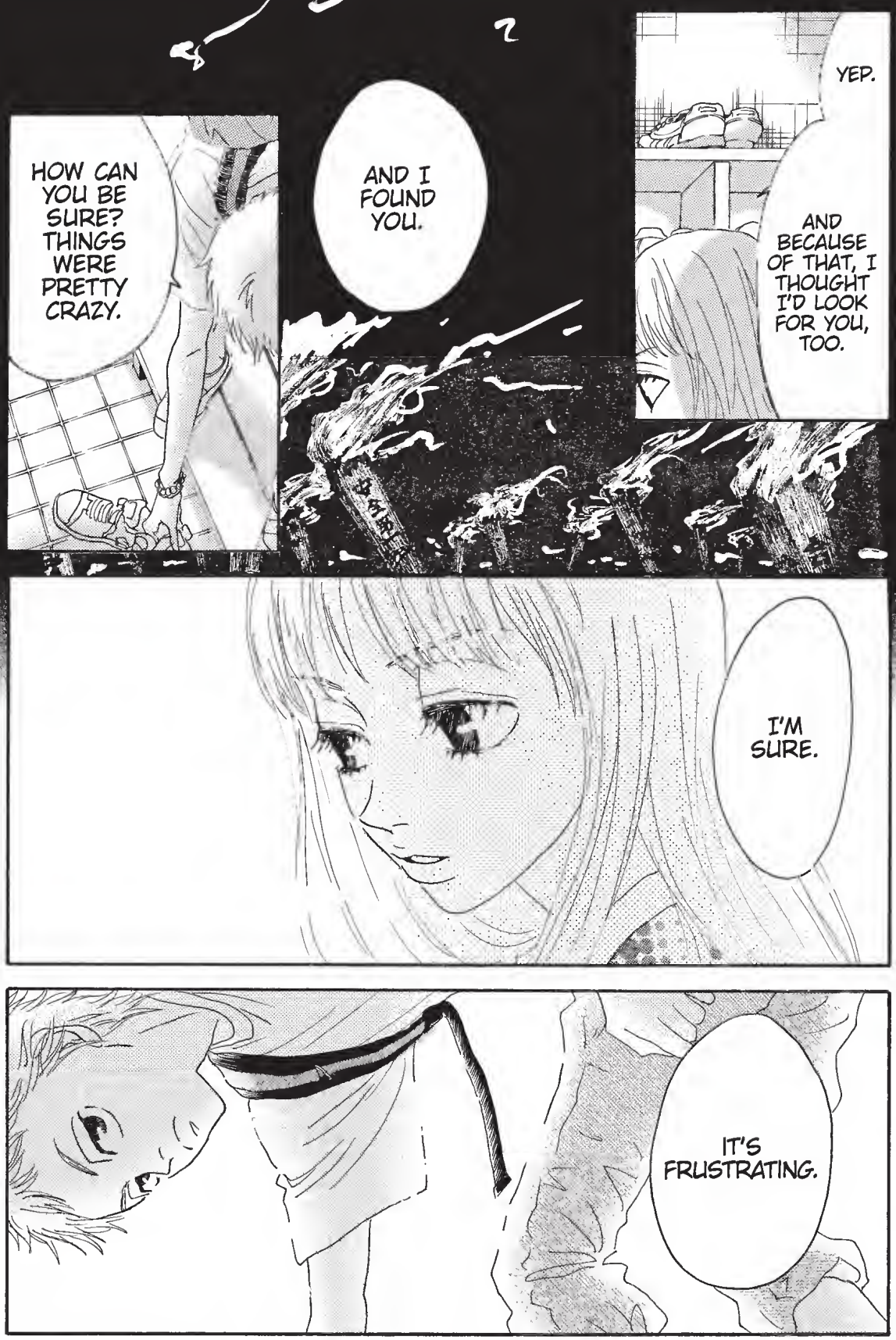

THE FIRES OF THE FESTIVAL STILL SMOLDER IN MY HEART.
THE DISTANT RUSTLE OF UNEASINESS ...
はぁ HUFF HUFF
はぁ HUFF HUFF
は HUFF ぁ HUFF
はぁ HUFF HUFF
は HUFF ぁ HUFF

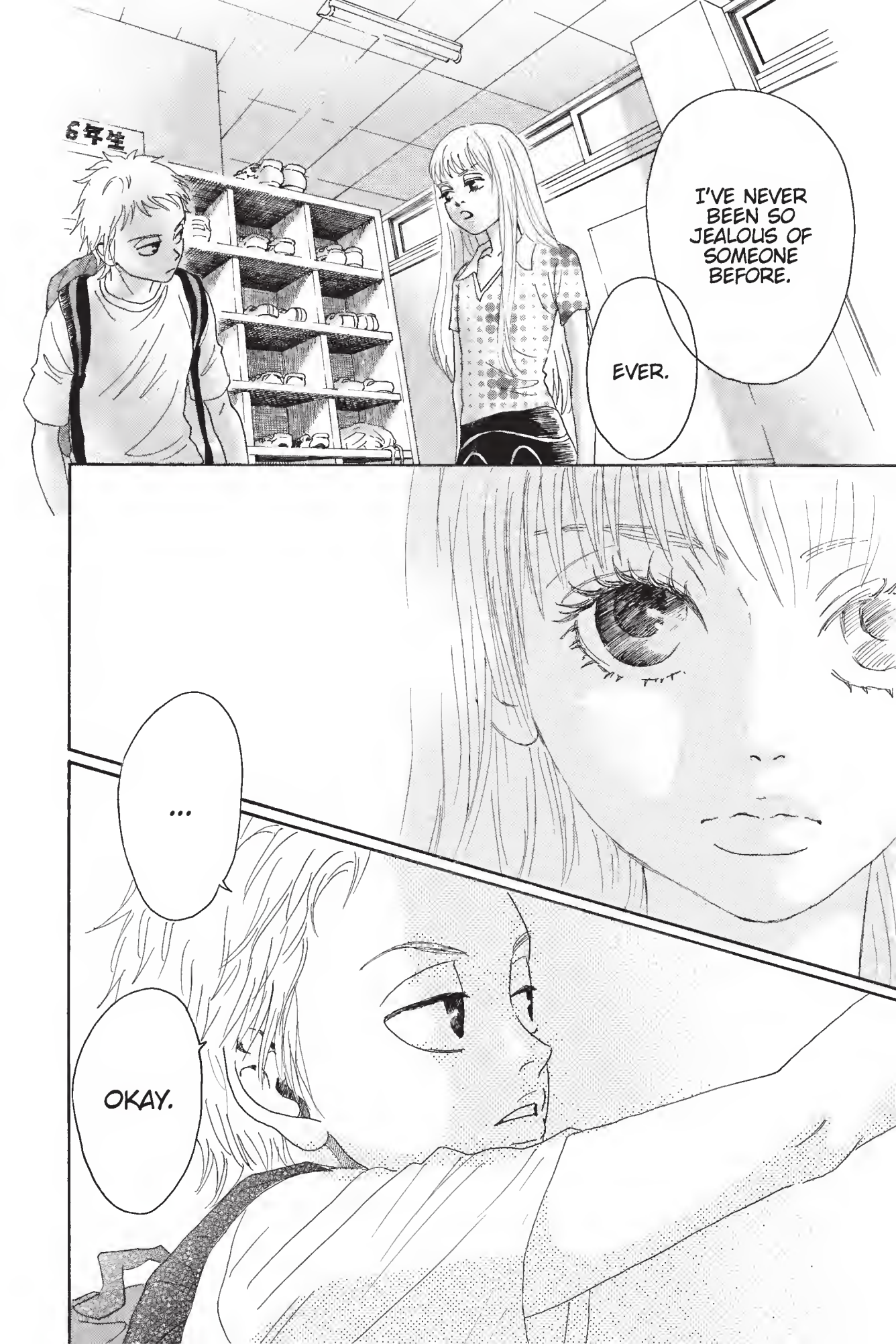
はー
HUFF
HUFF
はー
HUFF
HUFF
"WHAT'S THE HARM..."
"...IN ASKIN' THE GODS TO WATCH OVER YA?"
はー
HUFF
HUFF

CLAP
ぱんっ
I-
CLAP
ぱんっ
I'M THINKING OF LETTING THE PHOTO-GRAPHER HIRONO DO A SHOOT WITH ME!
AND IF IT SEEMS LIKE THE PICTURES WILL BE BETTER NUDE, I'LL DO THEM NUDE!
I'M GOING TO SAY THAT AT THE MEETING!
I'M-
HIRONO TAKES GREAT PICTURES EVEN IF THEY AREN'T NUDES!
BUT ONLY IF!
IF...
AND... IF IT SEEMS LIKE HE JUST WANTS A YOUNG GIRL AND THAT ANYONE WOULD DO, I'LL REFUSE.

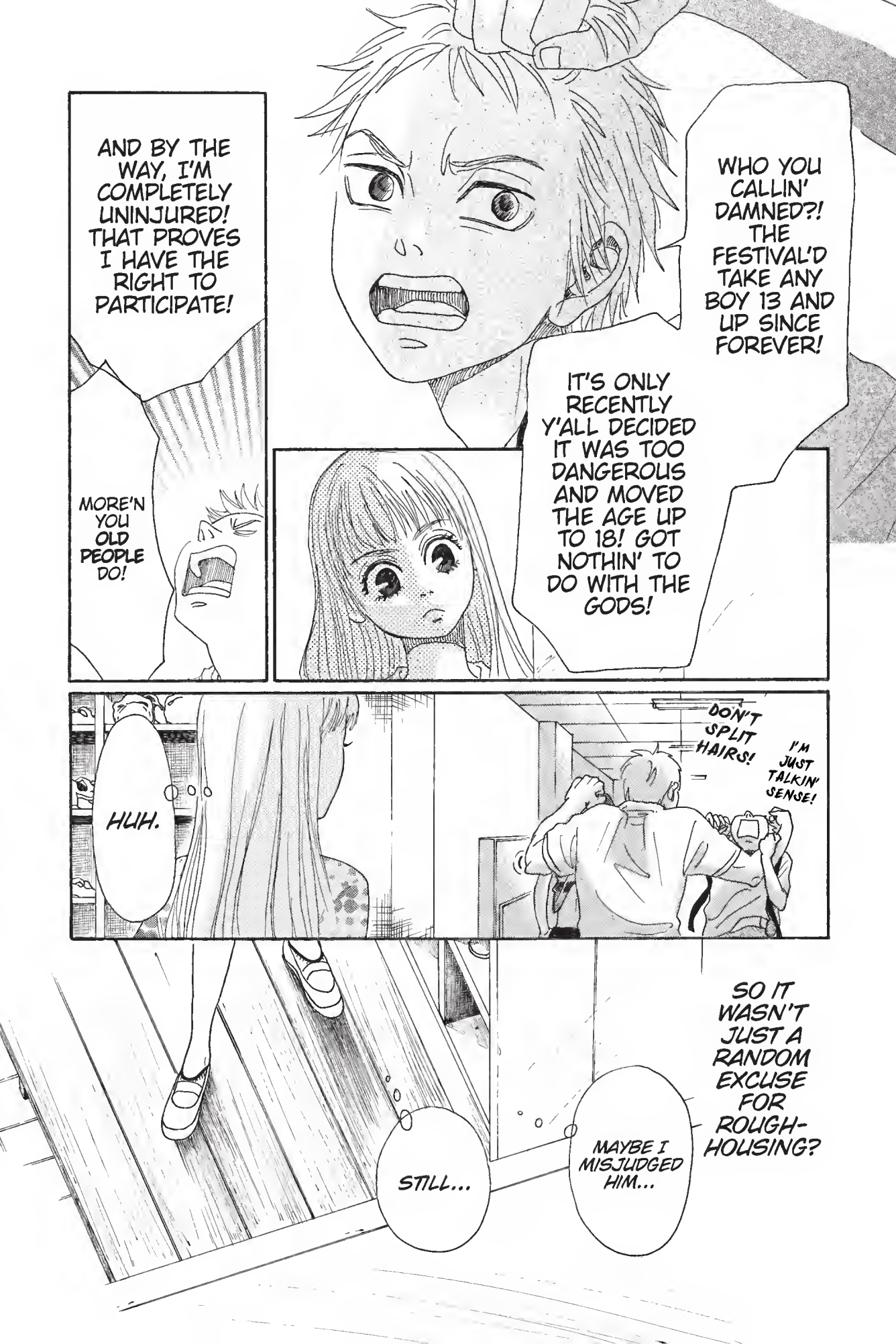

I HAVE A FEELING THINGS WILL GO WELL.
BUT...
I'LL REFUSE.
IF IT SEEMS LIKE I DON'T HAVE A SAY,
DING DONG
ビターン
CLATTER
STILL, I'M UNEASY.
DANG
DONG

YOU'RE LATE.
YOU, TOO.
CLACK
I SAW YOU...
...AT THE FESTIVAL YESTER-DAY.
...YEAH.
I HEARD Y'ALL CAUGHT OTOMO.

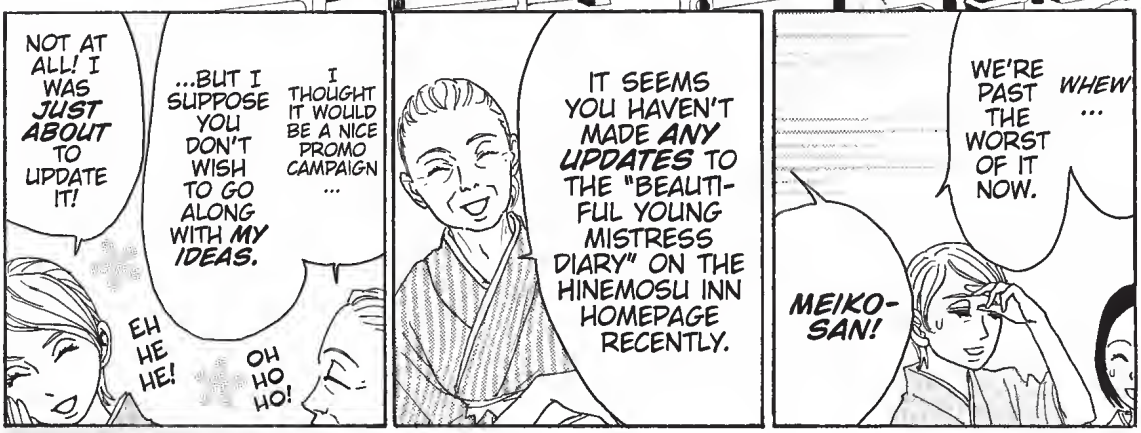

HOW CAN YOU BE SURE? THINGS WERE PRETTY CRAZY.
AND I FOUND YOU.
YEP.
AND BECAUSE OF THAT, I THOUGHT I'D LOOK FOR YOU, TOO.
I'M SURE.
IT'S FRUSTRATING.


6年生
I'VE NEVER BEEN SO JEALOUS OF SOMEONE BEFORE.
EVER.
...
OKAY.

DASH
ダッ
GRAB
ガッ
I NEVER SAID I WANTED TO PARTICIPATE.
IF YOU DECIDE YOU'RE A BOY BY NEXT YEAR, WE'LL TALK ABOUT LETTING YOU IN.
HASEGAWA!
HOW DOES A KANNUSHI THINK HE CAN JUST WALTZ INTO OUR SCHOOL AND TELL US HOW TO RUN THINGS?!
YOU DAMN BRAT!
STRETCH
CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?!
THE KANNUSHI CHEWED ME OUT OVER THE FESTIVAL THING!
...

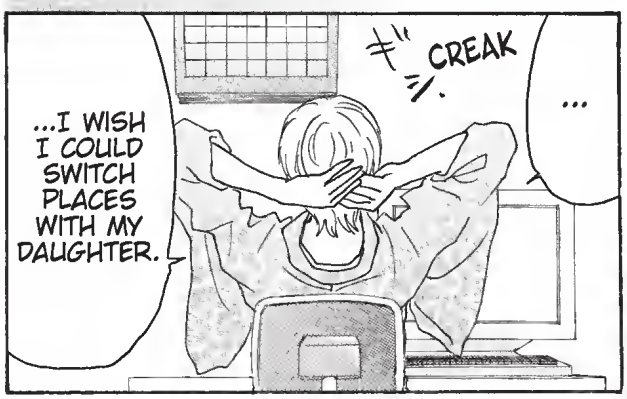

AND BY THE WAY, I'M COMPLETELY UNINJURED! THAT PROVES I HAVE THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE!
MORE'N YOU OLD PEOPLE DO!
WHO YOU CALLIN' DAMNED?! THE FESTIVAL'D TAKE ANY BOY 13 AND UP SINCE FOREVER!
IT'S ONLY RECENTLY Y'ALL DECIDED IT WAS TOO DANGEROUS AND MOVED THE AGE UP TO 18! GOT NOTHIN' TO DO WITH THE GODS!
HUH.
DON'T SPLIT HAIRS!
I'M JUST TALKIN' SENSE!
SO IT WASN'T JUST A RANDOM EXCUSE FOR ROUGH-HOUSING?
MAYBE I MISJUDGED HIM...
STILL...

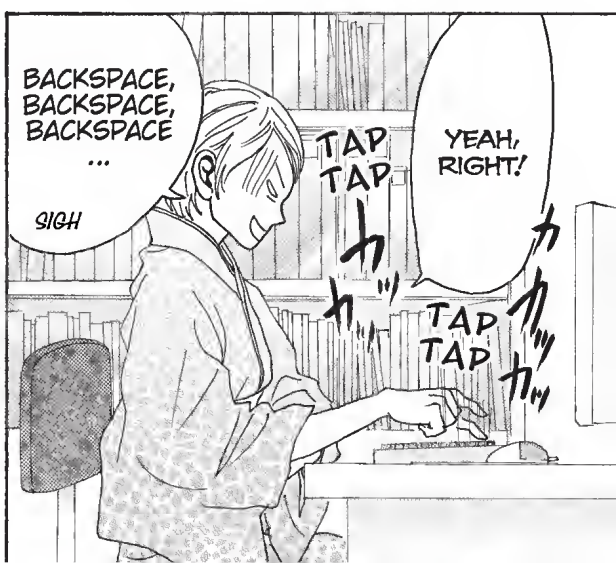
IT CERTAINLY LOOKED LIKE HE BELONGED THERE.
LET'S GO AHEAD AND DECIDE GROUPS FOR YOUR CLASS TRIP.
By the way, I'm the principal.
LET'S SEE... RIGHT NOW, MR. KAITO IS DOING SOME FREESTYLE JUDO TRAINING WITH HASEGAWA-KUN AND OTOMO-KUN.
...WELL, I SUPPOSE WE'D BETTER SPLIT UP THE CLIQUES, SHOULDN'T WE?
PARTNER UP WITH WHOMEVER YOU LIKE, WITH BOYS AND GIRLS SEPARATED INTO GROUPS OF EIGHT OR NINE...
WHOA!
わぁ
IN THAT CASE, WHY DON'T WE ASSIGN MIXED GROUPS BY LOTTERY?
CHATTER
CHATTER
ACK!
THAT MEANS THE PARTNER LOTTERY IS THE VERY MOMENT THAT DECIDES WHETHER OR NOT THE TRIP WILL BE FUN!
THAT'S TER-RIBLE!
...

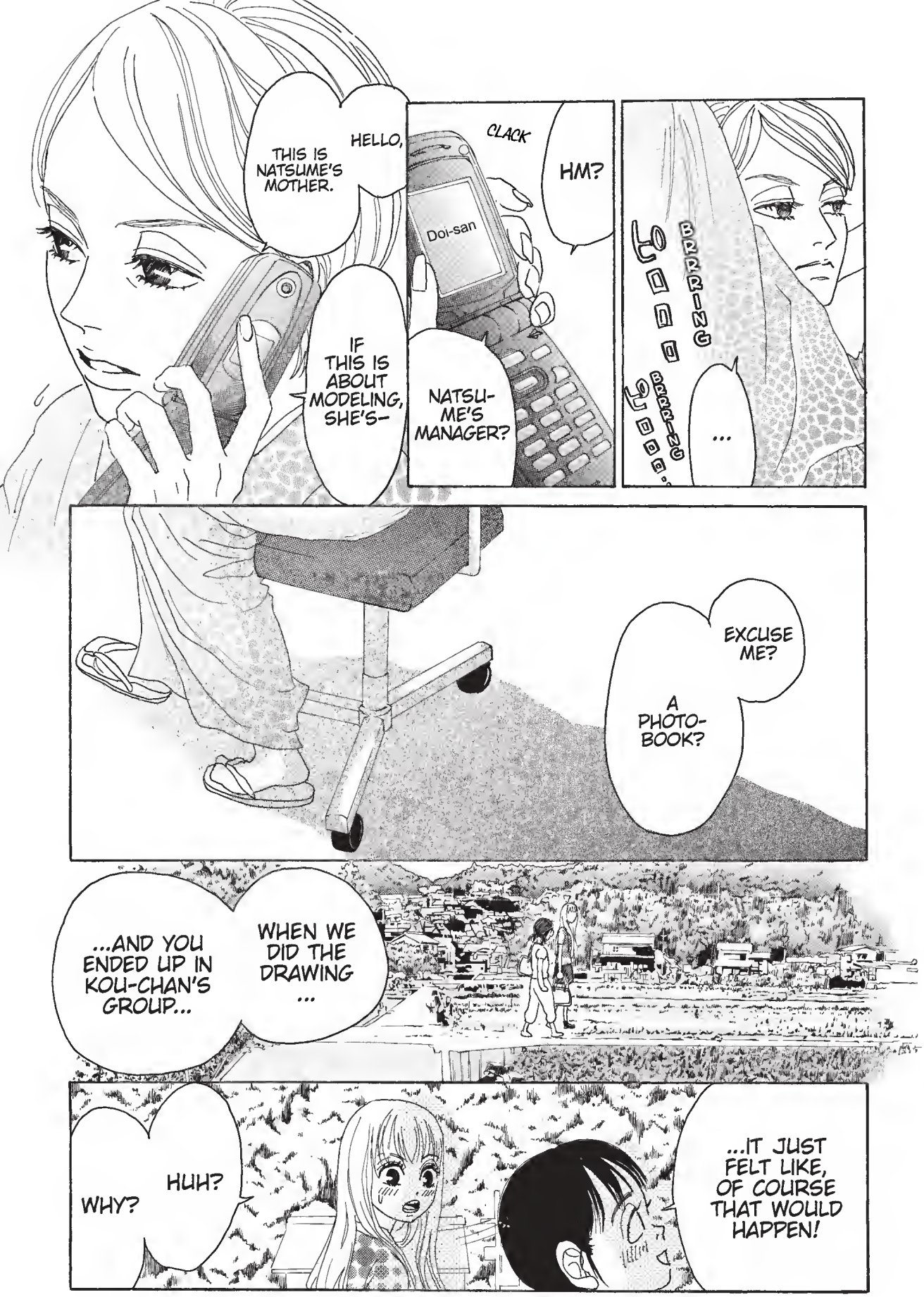


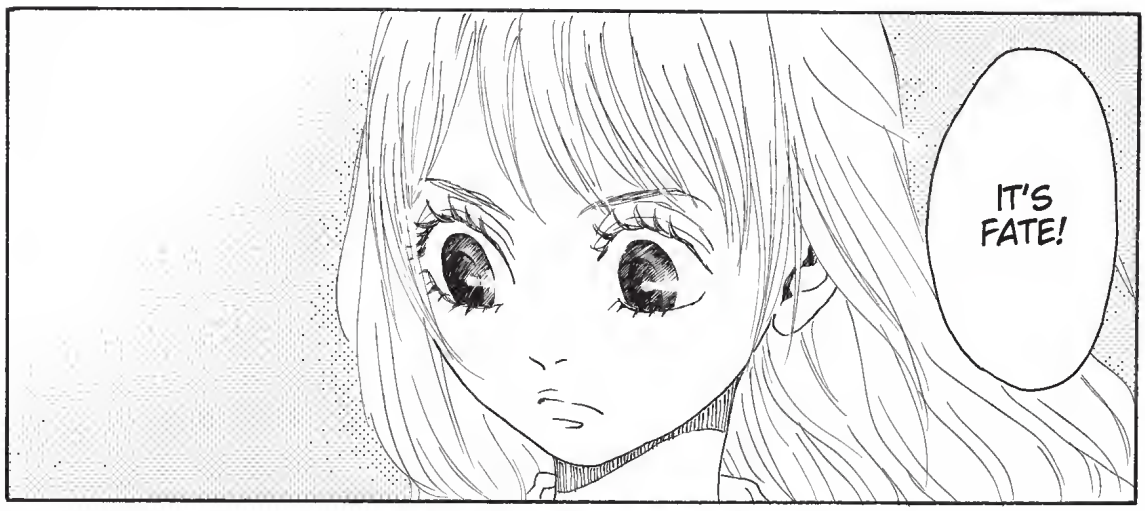
TYPE TYPE TYPE

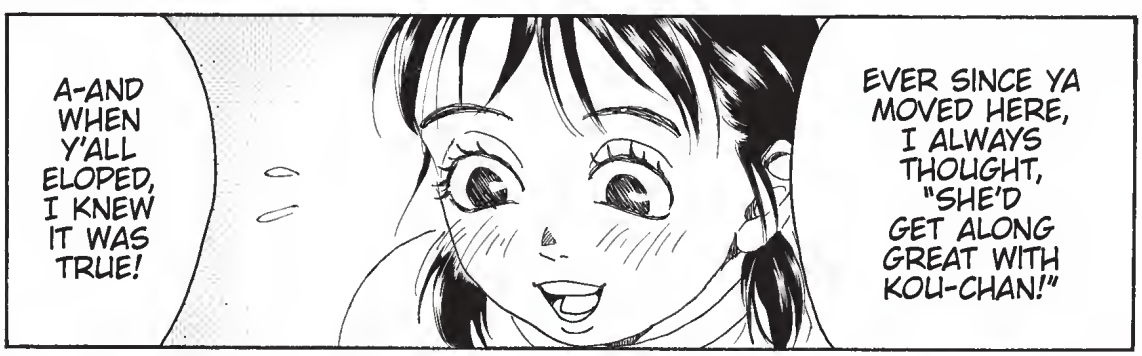
Like hell I will!
I'm fed up with pretending to be a mistress!
Aaaaaarghh!!!
I just want to go back to Tokyo!

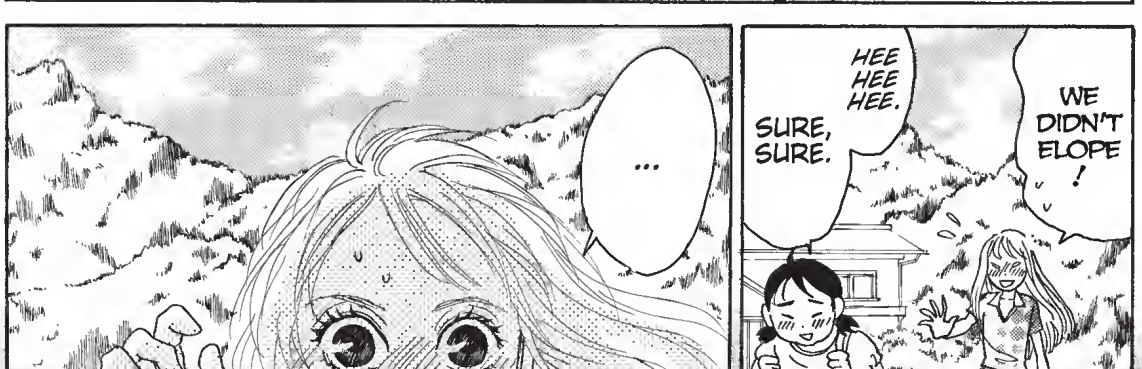


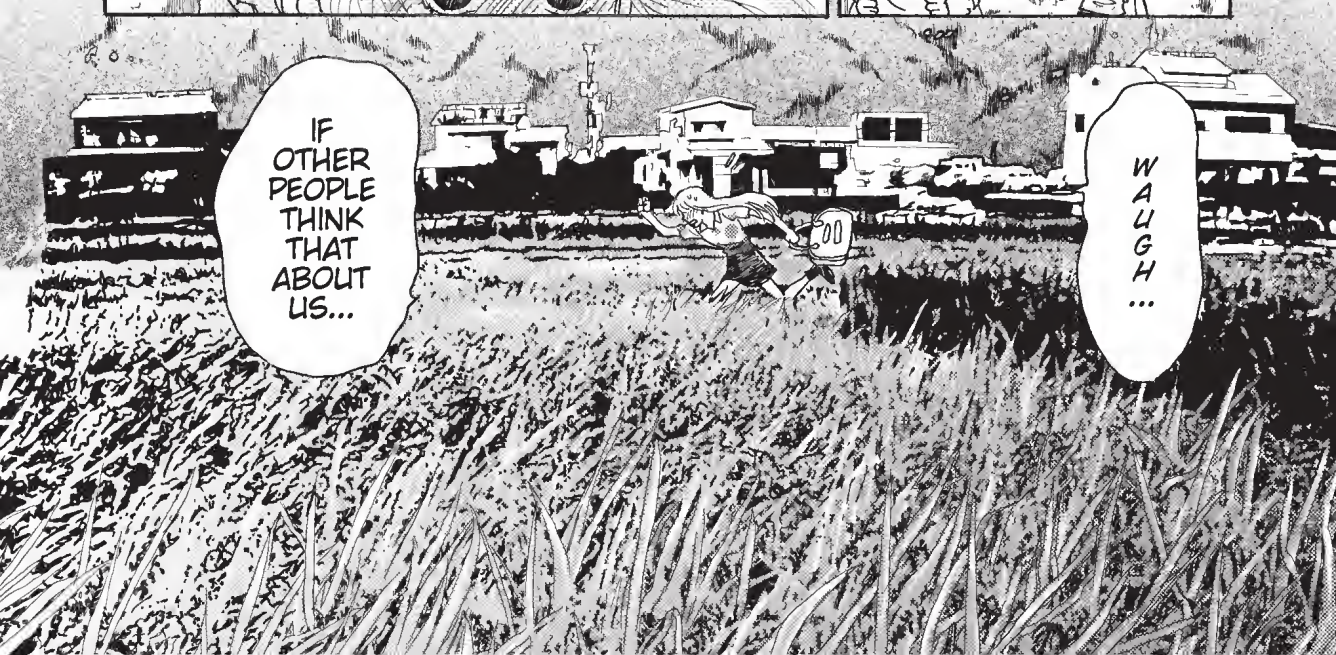


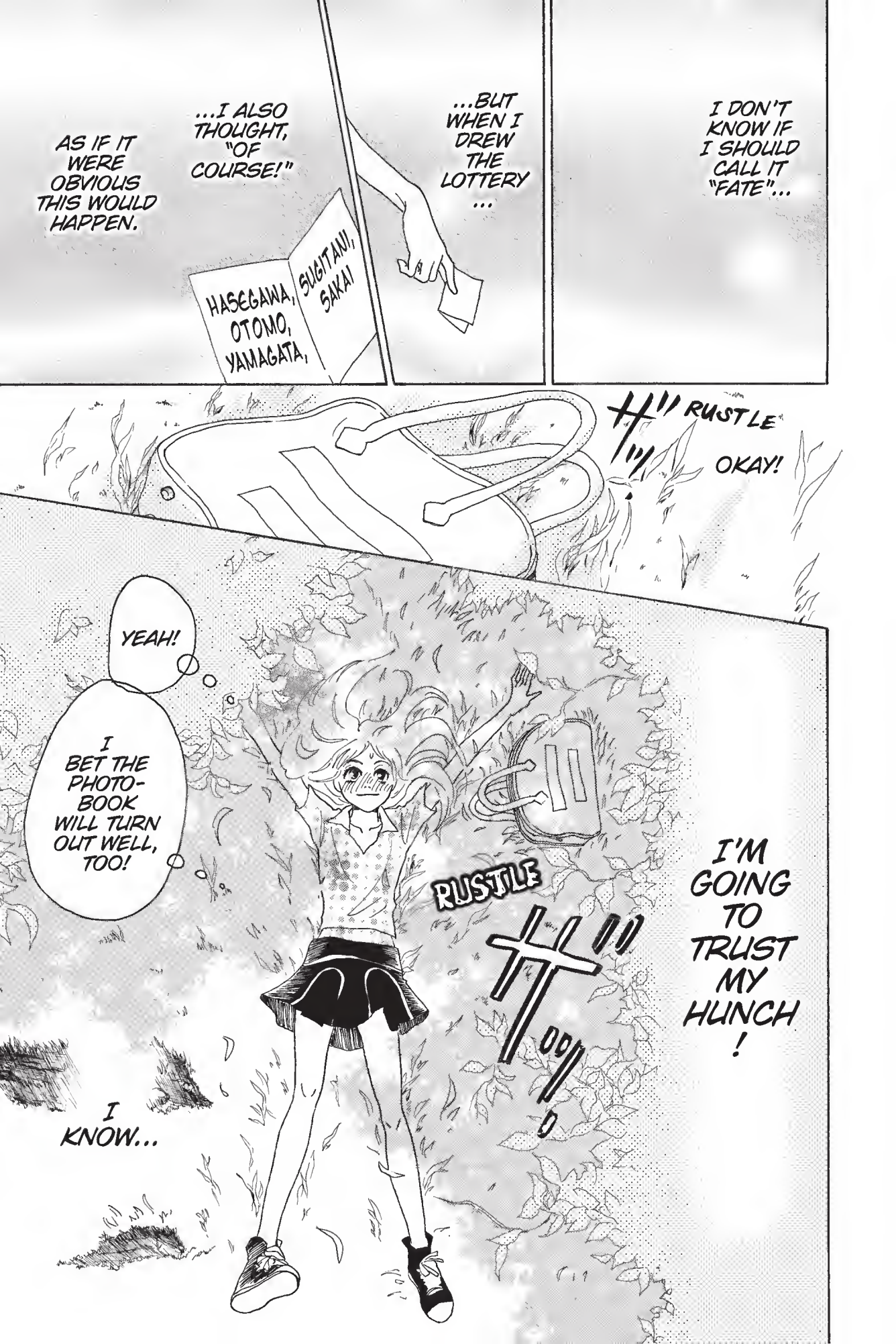

BRRRING
BRRRING
...
CLACK
HM?
Doi-san
NATSU-ME'S MANAGER?
HELLO,
THIS IS NATSUME'S MOTHER.
IF THIS IS ABOUT MODELING, SHE'S-
EXCUSE ME?
A PHOTO-BOOK?
WHEN WE DID THE DRAWING ...
...AND YOU ENDED UP IN KOU-CHAN'S GROUP...
HUH?
WHY?
...IT JUST FELT LIKE, OF COURSE THAT WOULD HAPPEN!

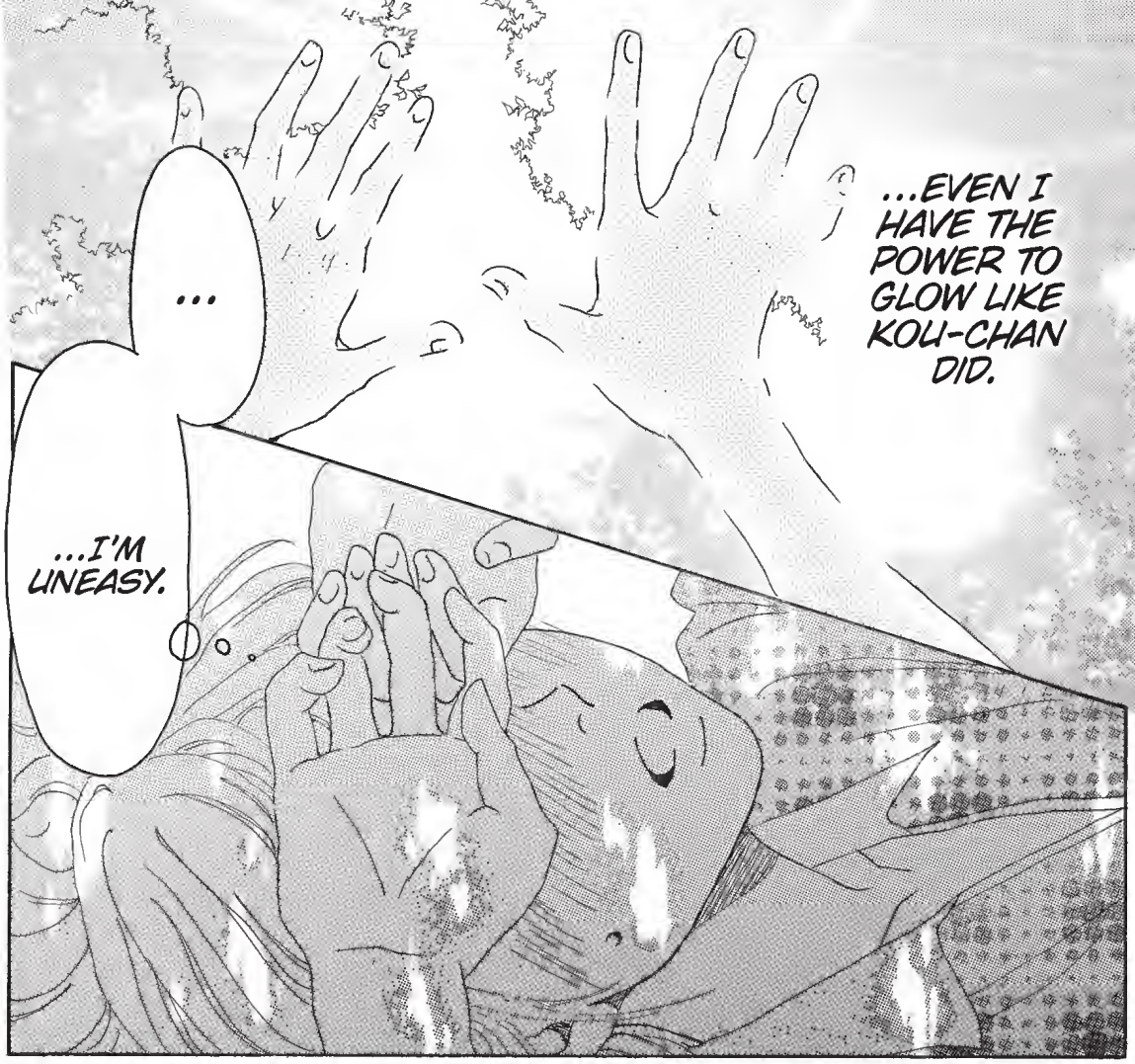

IT'S FATE!


EVER SINCE YA MOVED HERE, I ALWAYS THOUGHT, "SHE'D GET ALONG GREAT WITH KOU-CHAN!"
A-AND WHEN Y'ALL ELOPED, I KNEW IT WAS TRUE!

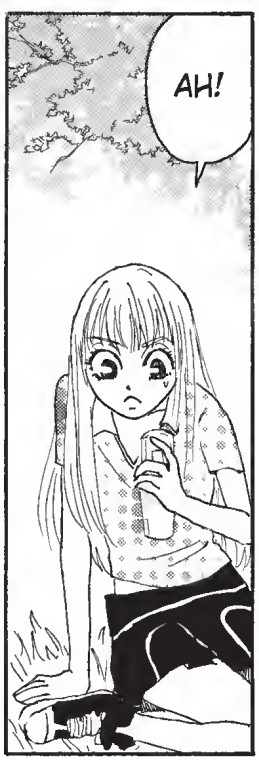

WE DIDN'T ELOPE!
HEE HEE HEE.
SURE, SURE.
...


WAUGH...
IF OTHER PEOPLE THINK THAT ABOUT US...


I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD CALL IT "FATE"...
...BUT WHEN I DREW THE LOTTERY ...
HASEGAWA, OTOMO, YAMAGATA,
SUGITANI, SAKAI
...I ALSO THOUGHT, "OF COURSE!"
AS IF IT WERE OBVIOUS THIS WOULD HAPPEN.
RUSTLE
OKAY!
I'M GOING TO TRUST MY HUNCH!
RUSTLE
YEAH!
I BET THE PHOTO-BOOK WILL TURN OUT WELL, TOO!
I KNOW...


...EVEN I HAVE THE POWER TO GLOW LIKE KOU-CHAN DID.
...
...I'M UNEASY.

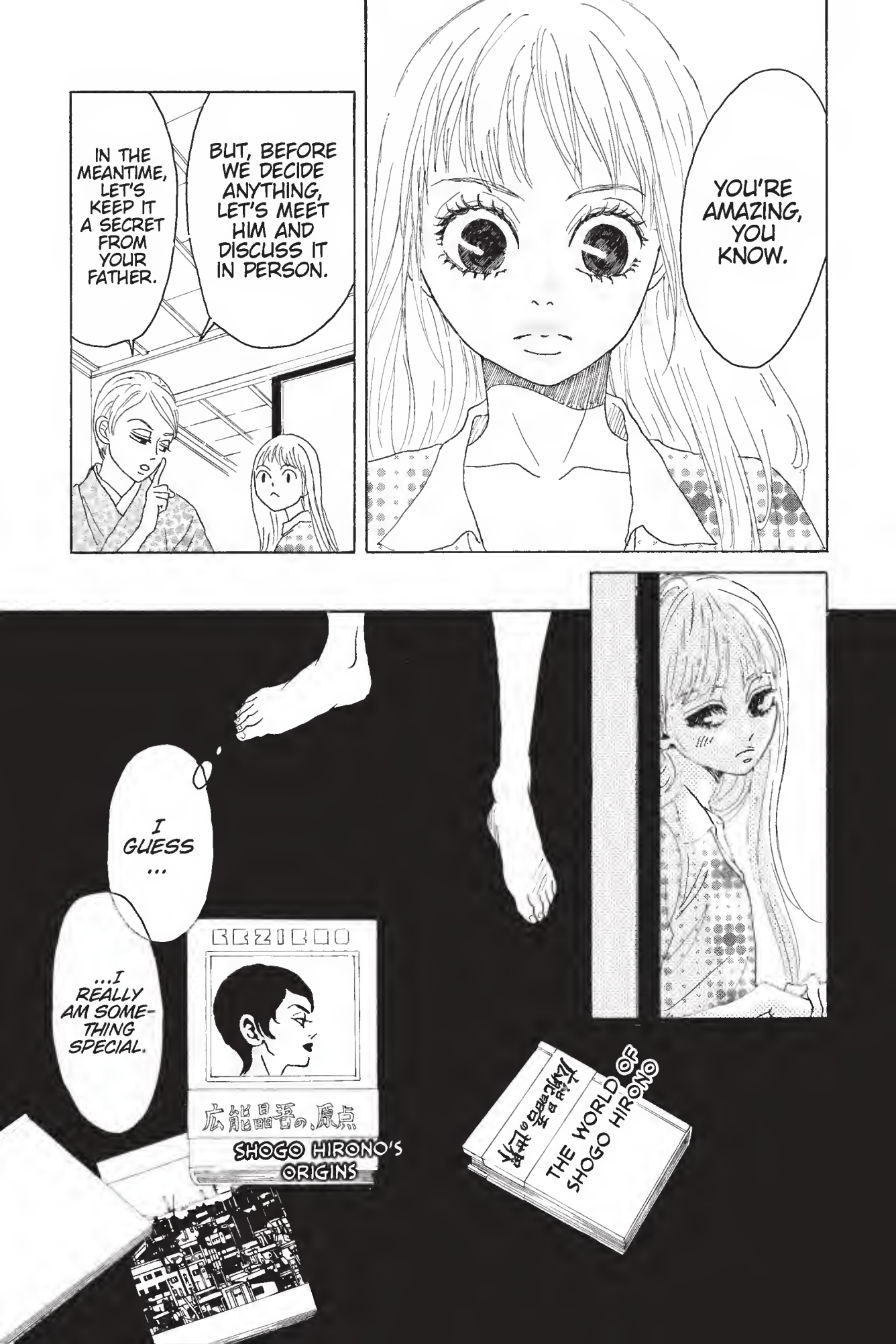
HELLO? ...
CALM DOWN. IT'S OKAY.


AH!

ピロリーン
BA-BI-BOOP
ピロリーン
BA-BI-BOOP
Call
Doi
Manager

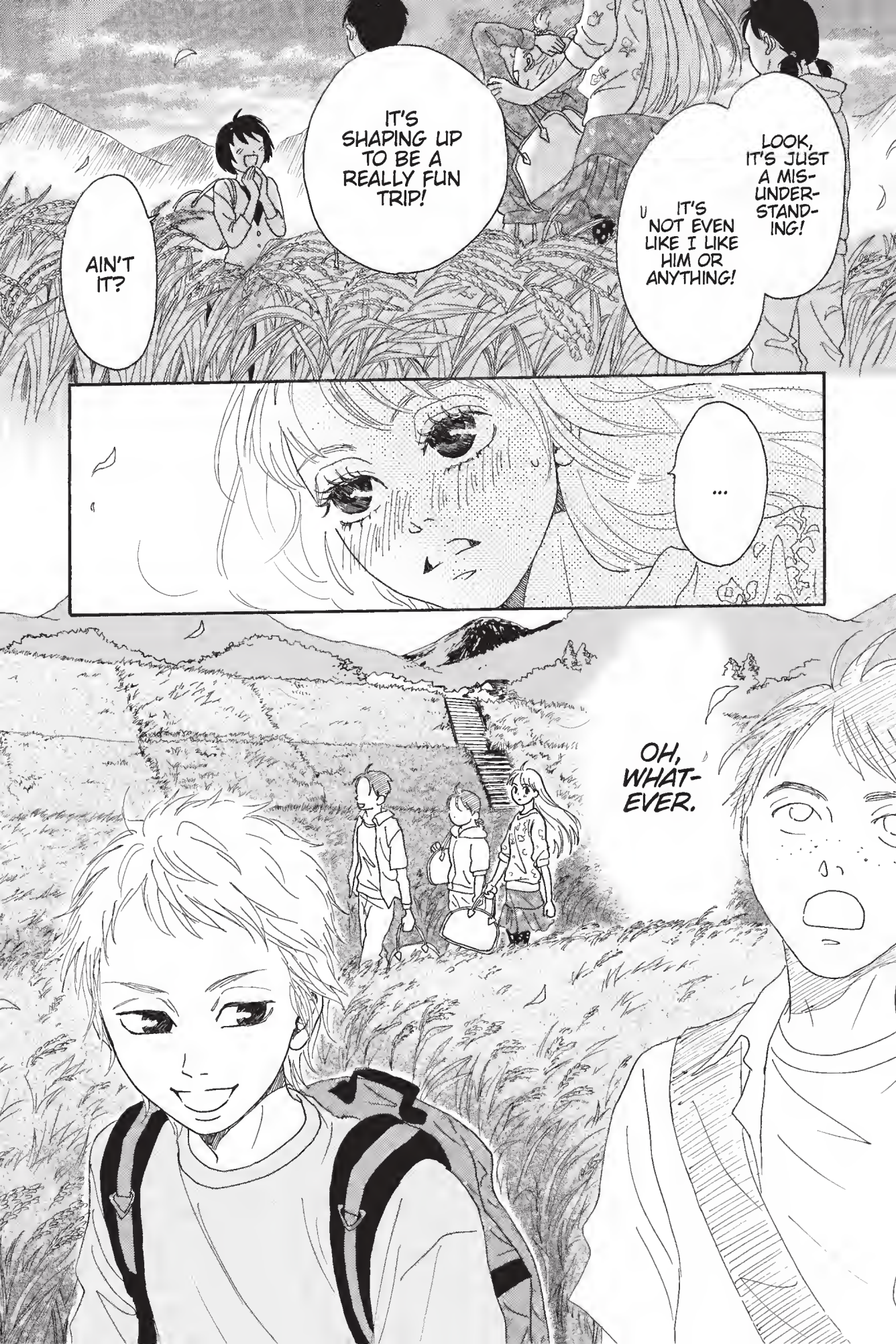
THINGS WILL GO WELL.
WHAT ?!
What's up? Something wrong?
UH, REALLY ?
You're going on a class trip? Well, after that, we'd like you to pay us a visit, too, okay?
Natsume-chan? I just got off the phone with your mother...
Oh, no! Ha ha ha...
ARE WE...
...GOING TO TALK ABOUT THE NUDE SHOOT?
Publishing nudes of a 12-year-old is illegal.
We'd never get away with it.
Well... Hirono-san just said that without thinking!
THEN, WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT EARLIER ?!
WHAT ?!

SO-
WHAT A RELIEF! I WON'T HAVE TO POSE NUDE AFTER ALL!
Well...
We can't use them in the book, but if you wanted to take some shots for personal use...
It'd have to be a secret, though, okay?
Just a memento of the shoot.
NO!
ABSOLUTELY NOT! THAT'S EVEN WORSE!
Ah!
It's just an idea!
You don't have to!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
WELCOME HOME.
SHOGO HIRONO'S ORIGINS
AH...
But I hid them!
SHOGO HIRONO?

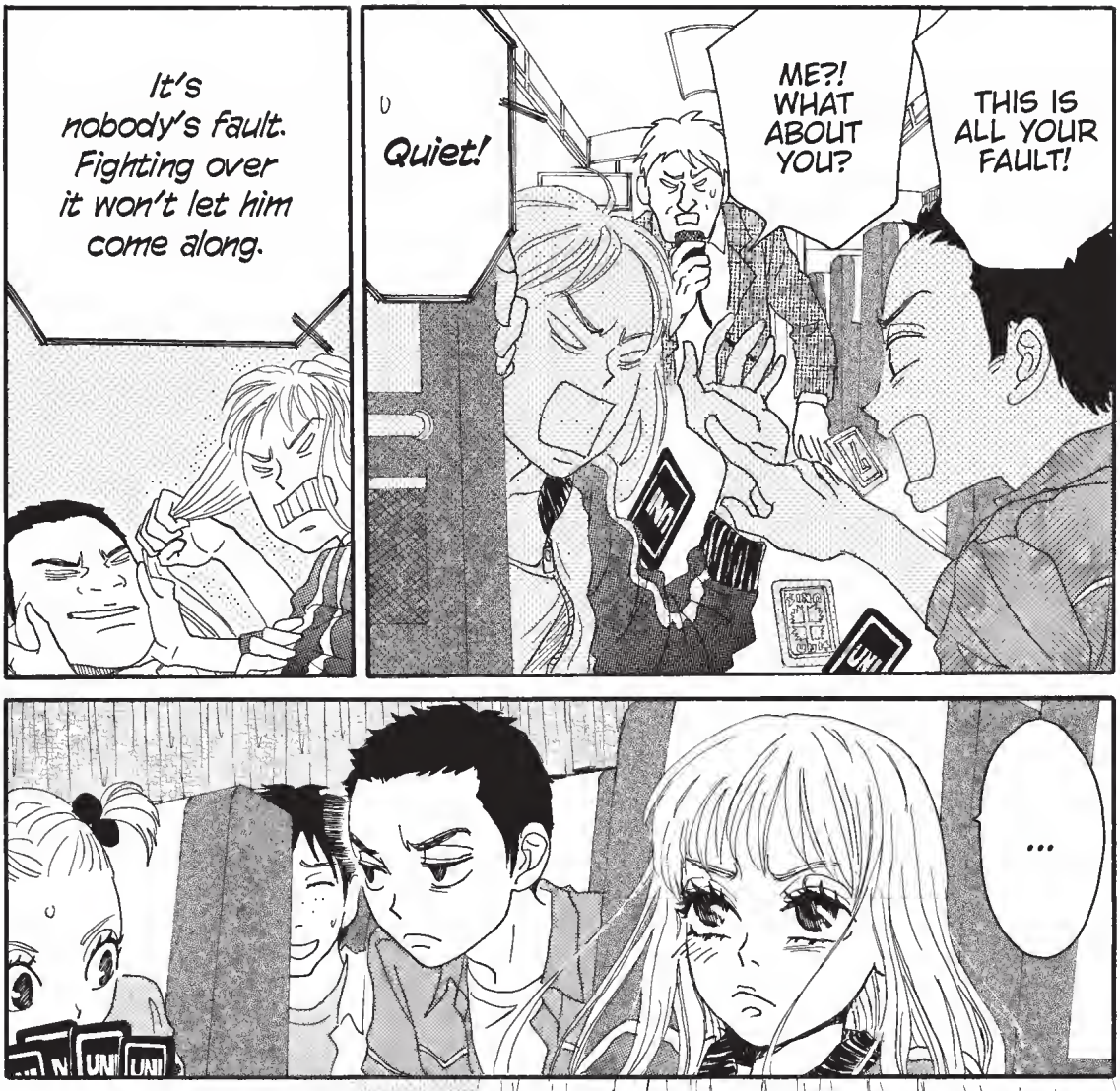

YOU'RE AMAZING, YOU KNOW.
BUT, BEFORE WE DECIDE ANYTHING, LET'S MEET HIM AND DISCUSS IT IN PERSON.
IN THE MEANTIME, LET'S KEEP IT A SECRET FROM YOUR FATHER.
I GUESS ...
...I REALLY AM SOME-THING SPECIAL.
SHOGO HIRONO'S ORIGINS
THE WORLD OF SHOGO HIRONO

KYOTO'S GOURMET MAP!
京都DE…
RECOMMENDED SPOTS!
THAT LOOKS SO DELICIOUS!
NATSUME-CHAN! HOW ABOUT HERE?
GUYS, WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO VISIT EVERY PLACE!
YEAH, THAT LOOKS GOOD, TOO!
NO QUES-TION!
OH, I GOTTA EAT HERE!
THINGS TO DECIDE:
1) WHERE TO GO DURING FREE TIME
2) INDEPENDENT STUDY TOPIC
ガヤ CHATTER
WE GOTTA TRAVEL AS A GROUP!
NO WAY!
AW, NO WAY! YOU GIRLS GO ALONE!
"PLENTY OF CUTE ACCES-SORIES!"
LEMME SEE...
ガヤ CHATTER
WE AIN'T PLANNED ANY-THING YET!
OH, NO!
IT'S 'CAUSE WE AIN'T EVEN BEEN TALKIN' ABOUT PLANS!
ドーゾ ドーゾ DOZO DOZO
AN' IF I GET HUNGRY, I CAN JUST EAT 'EM!
ARE YOU STUPID ?!
OH! HOW FASHION-ABLE!
HA HA HA は は は
HEY, WHY DON'TCHA STICK DUMPLINGS IN YOUR HAIR?

WHAT'RE Y'ALL STILL DOING HERE?!
GO HOME AL-READY!
AAH!
AH, MY BELLY HURTS!
YOU IDIOTS!
アホじゃ!
WAH HA HA HA HA!
わはは
WE AIN'T DECIDED EVERY-THIN' YET!
BECAUSE YOU'RE YAPPIN' 'BOUT USE-LESS STUFF! JUST DO IT ON YOUR LUNCH BREAK TOMOR-ROW!
See ya!
EH HE HE!
WHAT A WONDERFUL GROUP!
BECAUSE OTOMO'S IN IT, RIGHT?
I'VE LIKED SAKAI FOR GOIN' ON SIX YEARS NOW, BUT THIS IS THE FIRST CHANCE WE'VE HAD TO REALLY CONNECT!
YAMA-GATA'S A PRETTY FUN GUY, TOO!
AND NATSUME-CHAN AND KOU-CHAN ARE ALREADY MARRIED...
NO, WE AREN'T!
He's the only boy taller than I am!


LOOK, IT'S JUST A MIS-UNDER-STAND-ING!
IT'S NOT EVEN LIKE I LIKE HIM OR ANYTHING!
IT'S SHAPING UP TO BE A REALLY FUN TRIP!
AIN'T IT?
...
OH, WHAT-EVER.

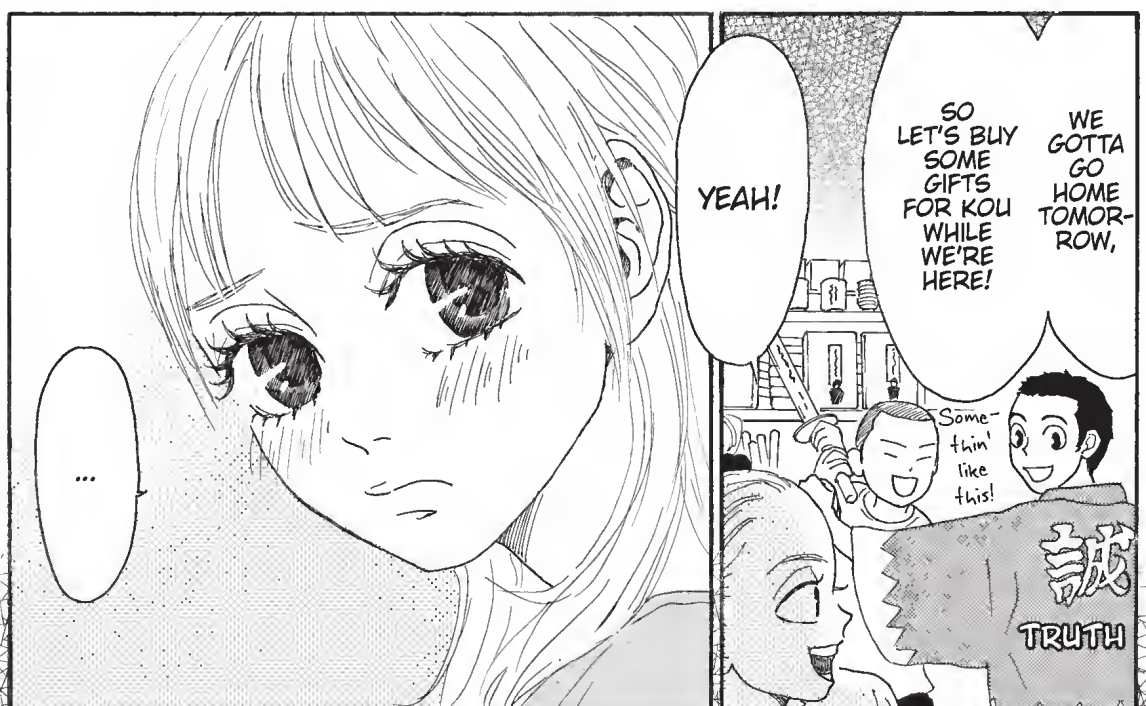
WHAT?!
His father said it's not safe for him.
I tried to convince him otherwise, too!
CHATTER
CHATTER
WHADDAYA MEAN, KOU AIN'T COMIN'?!
AWW... KOU-CHAN'S FAMILY IS AWFUL PROTEC-TIVE OF HIM.
Hasegawa's caused his share of trouble recently, too.
The phone call I got said, "This is his punishment. I won't let him go."
RAN AWAY WITH HIM
PARTICI-PATED IN THE FESTIVAL WITH HIM



KOU-CHAN'S FAMILY SURE IS WEIRD.

I HEARD HIS OLDER SISTERS WEREN'T ALLOWED TO GO ON TRIPS, EITHER.
I FIGURED KOU-CHAN WOULD BE OKAY 'CAUSE HE'S A BOY.
HE IS THEIR HEIR, THOUGH.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH THEY SPOIL HIM, HE'S STILL A HASEGAWA.
SO WHY DOES HIS UNCLE STILL GET TO KNOCK HIM AROUND?
CRACK
UGH!
ANYWAY...
THIS IS KOU-CHAN WE'RE TALKING ABOUT! HE'S HARDLY THE KIND OF PERSON TO DO AS HE'S TOLD!
I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF HE SHOWED UP UNEXPECTEDLY.
What's with this deer?!

I'VE GOT A STRONG FEELING HE WILL.
HE'S GOT TO COME.
It's gold!
YES, THAT HAS TO BE IT!
MY HUNCHES ARE BOUND TO BE RIGHT.
NATSU-ME-CHAN?
GLANCE
GLANCE
...



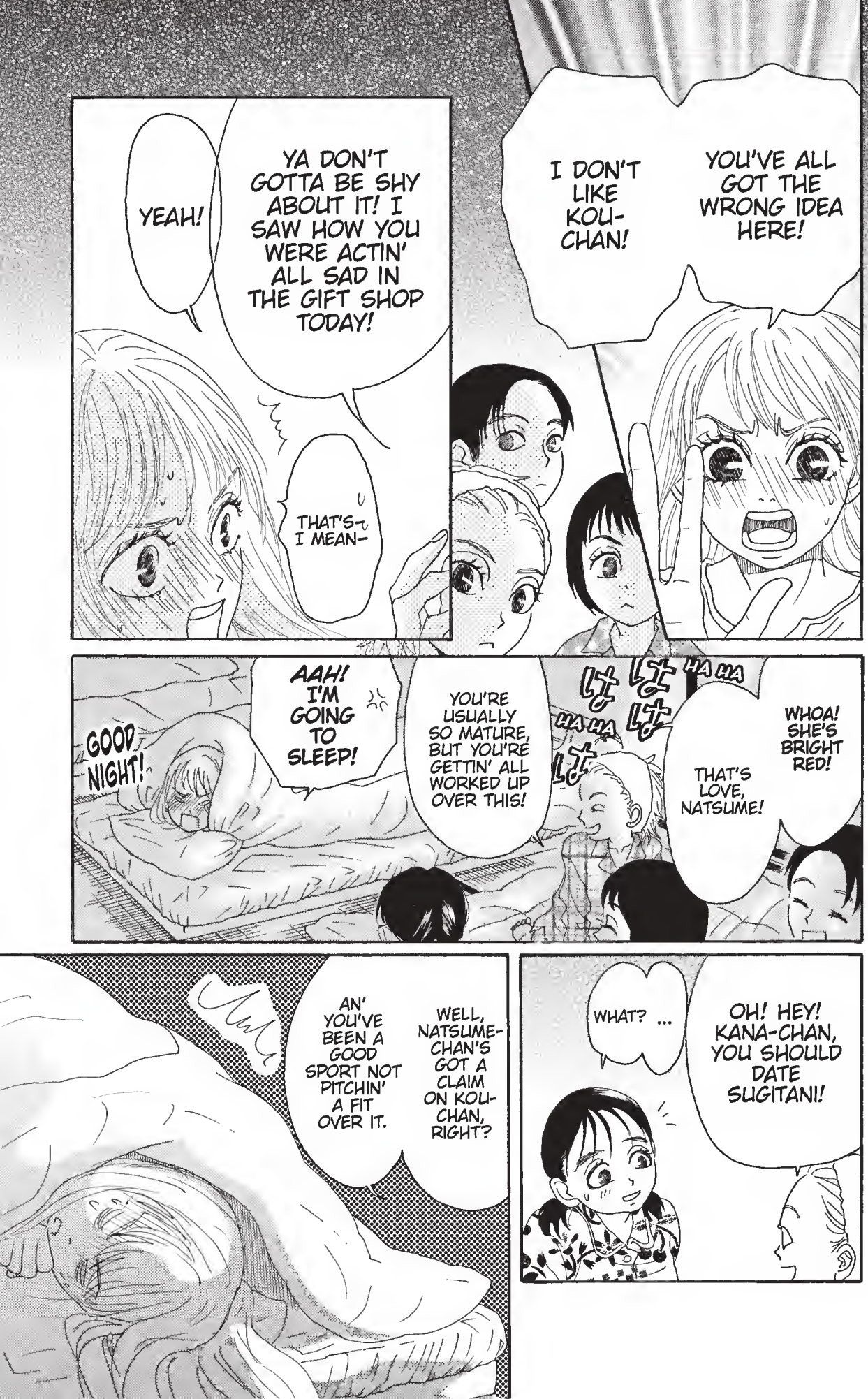
URGH...

IT'S SO BORING.

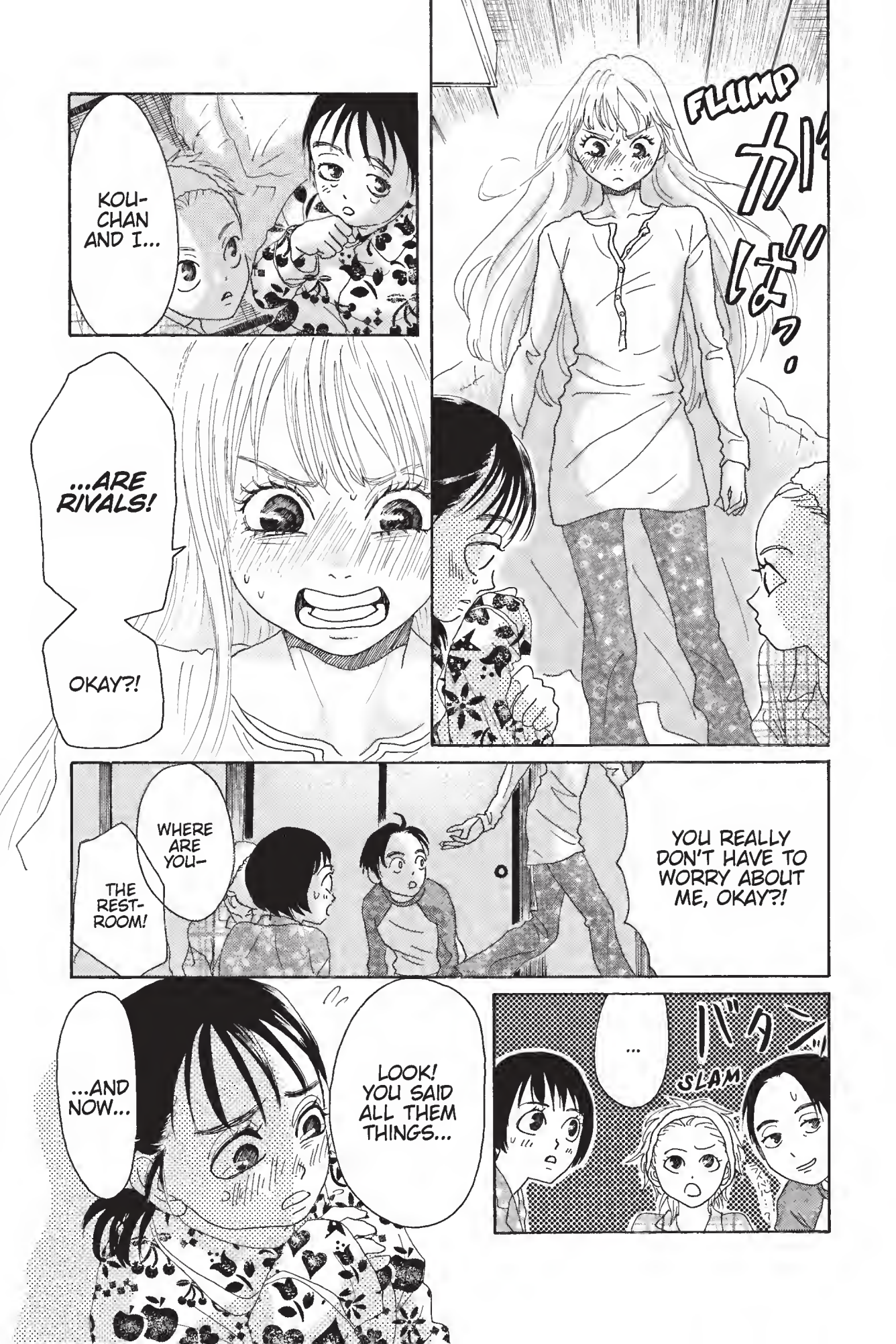
I GUESS KOU-CHAN IS JUST A BORING KID, TOO.

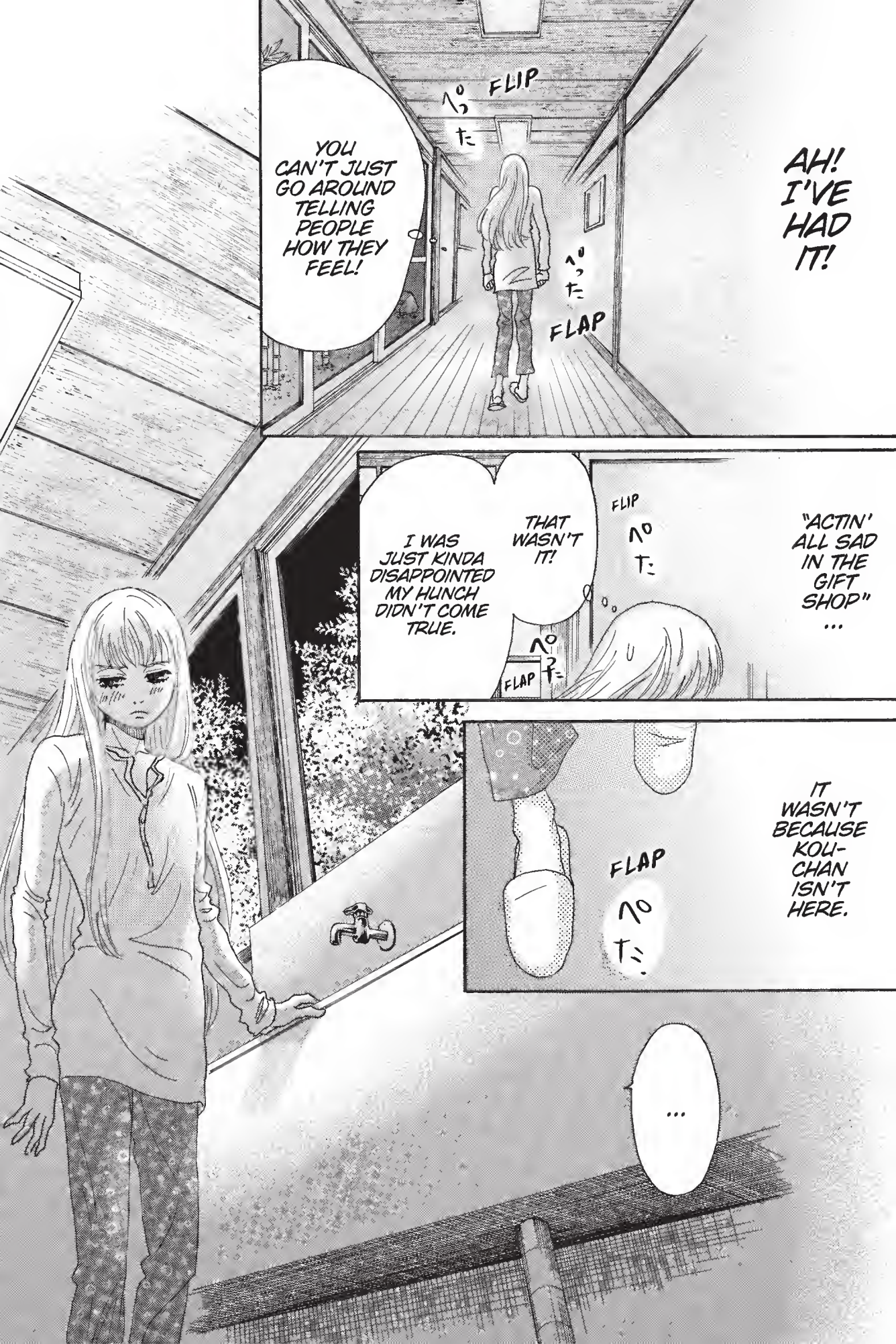
WHAT A DISAPPOINTMENT.

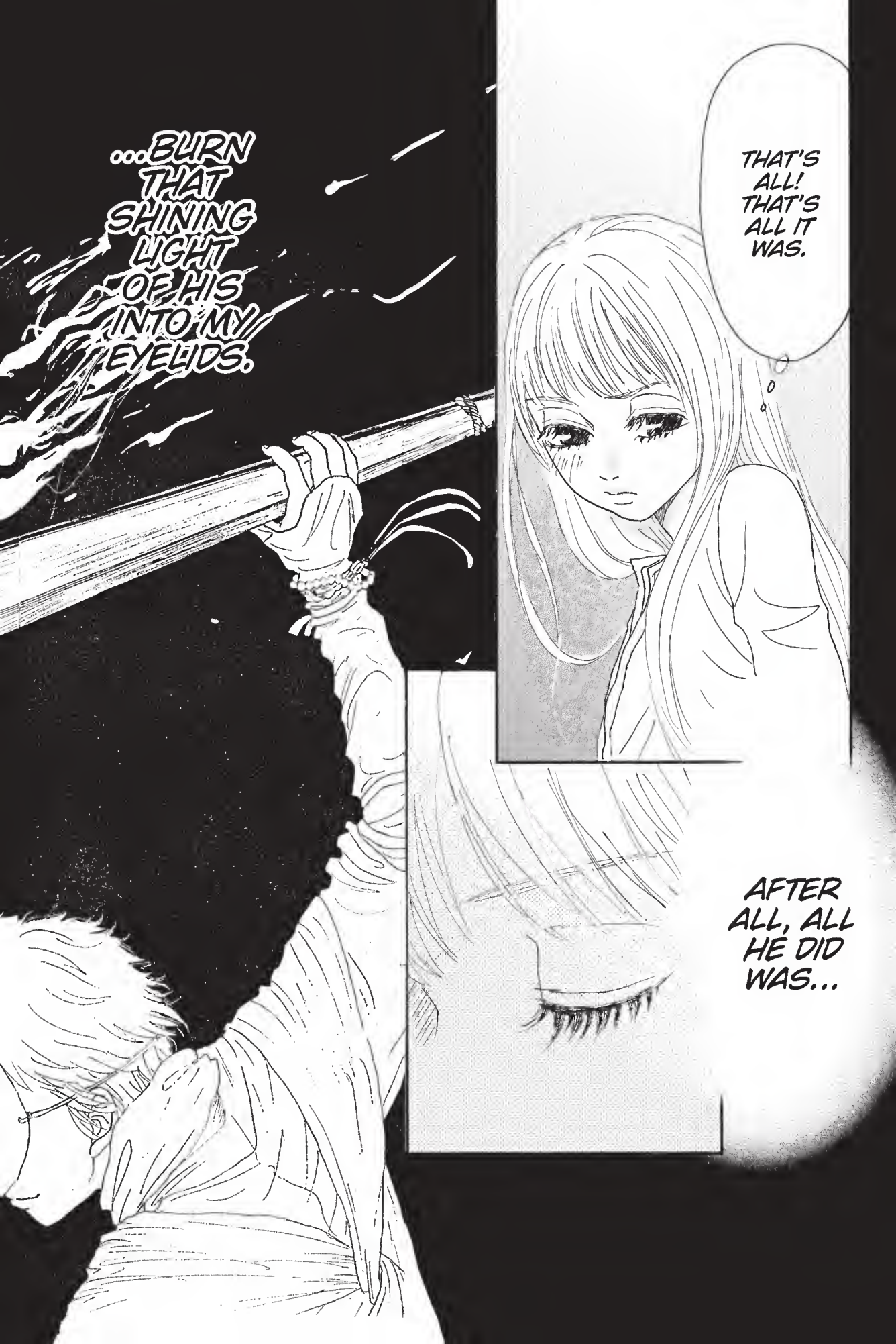
ED.: THIS IS HAYASE.
LIKE, RIGHT AWAY!
HOW ABOUT IF WHOEVER LOSES HAS TO ASK OUT THE PERSON THEY LIKE!
HEY, HEY!
WHAT?!
QUIET! IF WE'RE TOO LOUD, THE TEACHER WILL COME!
WE ALL GOT PAIRED WITH OUR CRUSHES, RIGHT? LET'S GET A LITTLE CLOSER!
I... DON'T HAVE ONE.
I'M TIRED. LET'S JUST LEAVE ME OUT.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT! KOU-CHAN ISN'T HERE, SO YOU'RE LEFT OUT.
NOT HAVING THE PERSON YOU LIKE WITH YOU ON A SCHOOL TRIP IS LIKE DRINKING POP THAT'S GONE FLAT.
So unsatisfyin'.
I FEEL SORRY FOR YA.
THAT'S! NOT! IT!


YOU'VE ALL GOT THE WRONG IDEA HERE!
I DON'T LIKE KOU-CHAN!
YA DON'T GOTTA BE SHY ABOUT IT! I SAW HOW YOU WERE ACTIN' ALL SAD IN THE GIFT SHOP TODAY!
YEAH!
THAT'S— I MEAN—
WHOA! SHE'S BRIGHT RED!
HA HA
THAT'S LOVE, NATSUME!
YOU'RE USUALLY SO MATURE, BUT YOU'RE GETTIN' ALL WORKED UP OVER THIS!
AAH! I'M GOING TO SLEEP!
GOOD NIGHT!
OH! HEY! KANA-CHAN, YOU SHOULD DATE SUGITANI!
WHAT? ...
WELL, NATSUME-CHAN'S GOT A CLAIM ON KOU-CHAN, RIGHT?
AN' YOU'VE BEEN A GOOD SPORT NOT PITCHIN' A FIT OVER IT.

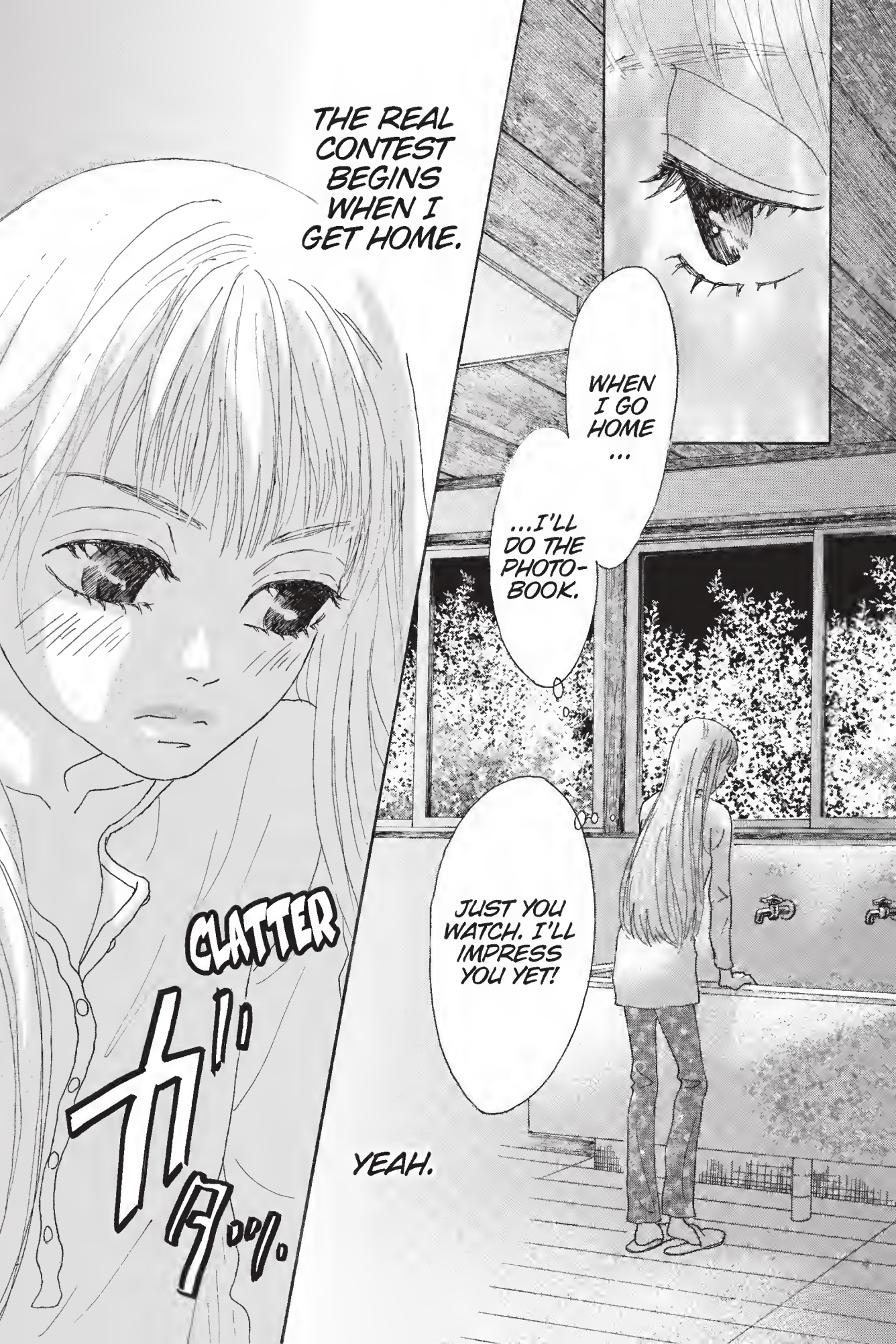
I MAY LIKE KOU-CHAN, BUT I ALSO LIKE NATSUME-CHAN.
I...
I JUS' WANNA SUPPORT THEM...
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO REACT TO THIS...?
URGH... HAYASE...
PEOPLE CAN LIKE WHOMEVER THEY LIKE!
YOU'RE THE DUMB ONE!
HUH? WHAT KINDA DUMB CRAP YOU SPOUTIN' NOW?
IT'S BETTER IF YOU AIN'T SHOULDERIN' THAT BURDEN!
AW, COME ON. DON'T CRY!
AIN'T IT WEIRDER TO CHANGE YER FEELIN'S ON A WHIM?
You've gotta be mature about this!
SNIEF
LOOK, SUGITANI'S NICE! JUS' FALL FOR HIM AN'-
YOU GOT SOMEBODY, HAYASE, AND YOU, TOO, MAKIHARA! AND NATSUME-CHAN...
...SHE LIKES KOU-CHAN ENOUGH THAT THEY EVEN ELOPED!

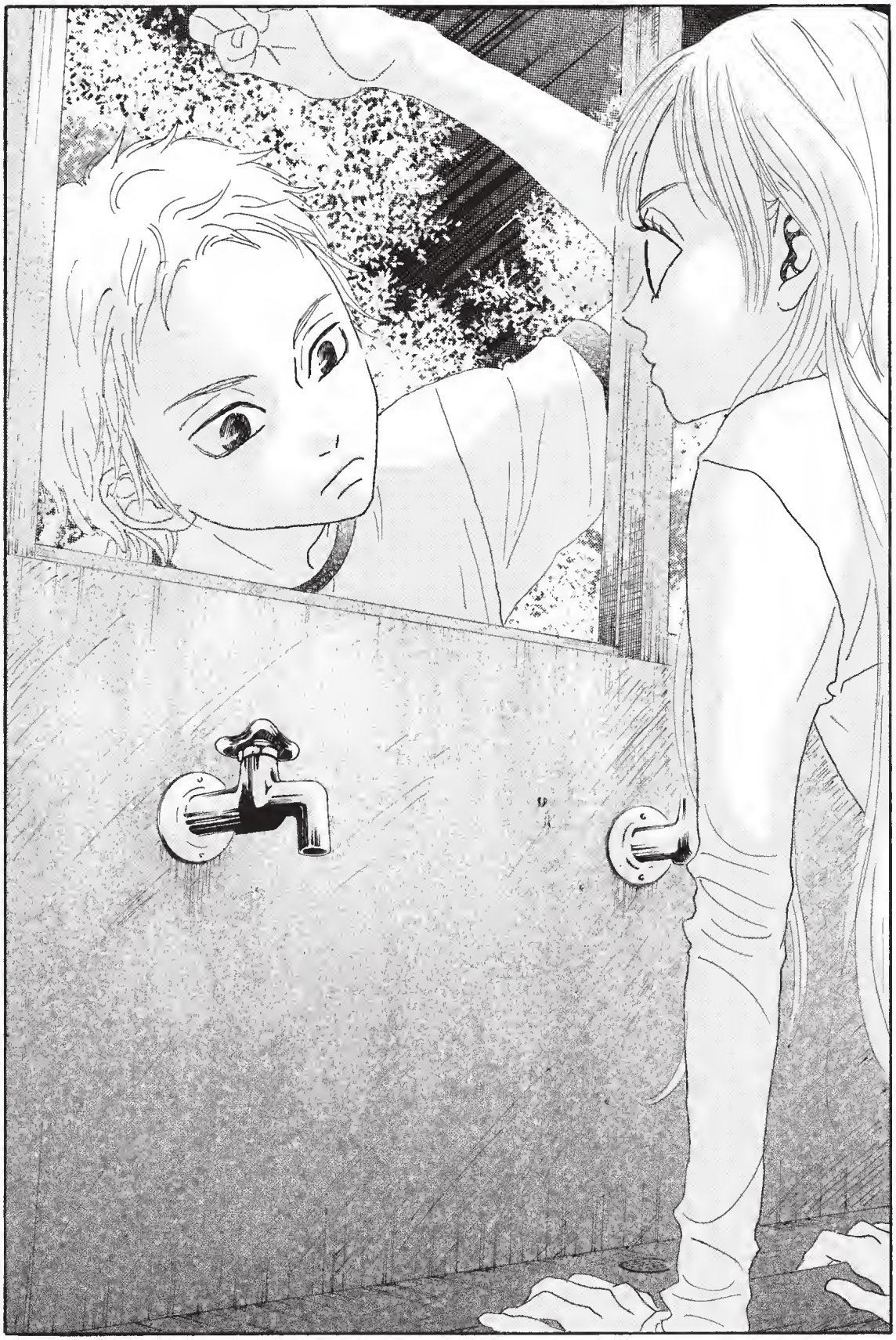

FLUMP
KOU-CHAN AND I...
...ARE RIVALS!
OKAY?!
YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME, OKAY?!
WHERE ARE YOU-
THE REST-ROOM!
...
バタン
SLAM
LOOK! YOU SAID ALL THEM THINGS...
...AND NOW...


AH! I'VE HAD IT!
FLIP
ﾍﾟﾀ
FLAP
ﾍﾟﾀ
YOU CAN'T JUST GO AROUND TELLING PEOPLE HOW THEY FEEL!
"ACTIN' ALL SAD IN THE GIFT SHOP" ...
FLIP
ﾍﾟﾀ
THAT WASN'T IT!
ﾍﾟﾀ
FLAP
I WAS JUST KINDA DISAPPOINTED MY HUNCH DIDN'T COME TRUE.
IT WASN'T BECAUSE KOU-CHAN ISN'T HERE.
FLAP
ﾍﾟﾀ
...


...BURN THAT SHINING LIGHT OF HIS INTO MY EYELIDS.
THAT'S ALL! THAT'S ALL IT WAS.
AFTER ALL, ALL HE DID WAS...

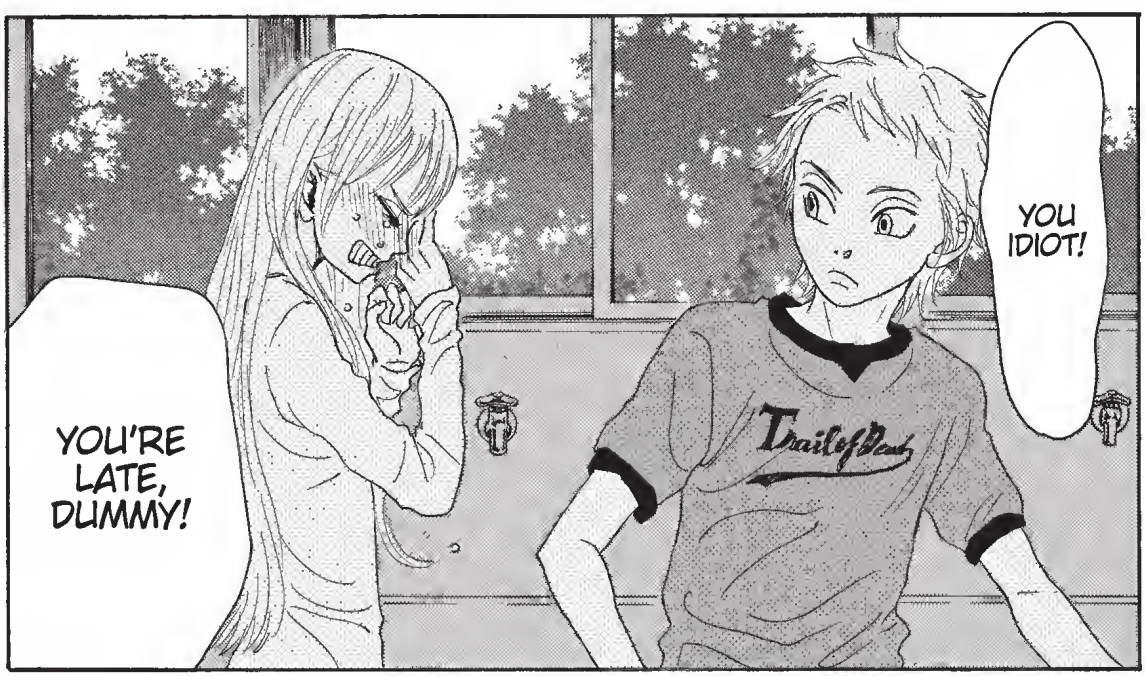
"I WANT IT, TOO!"
I WANT TO SHOW OFF WHAT I CAN DO!
SO THAT WHEN-EVER I THINK OF HIM, MY BODY SHAKES.
I WON'T...
"I WANT IT, TOO!" RESOUNDS WITHIN ME.
...I WON'T IDLY FALL FOR SOMEONE LIKE HIM.
ROAR


THE REAL CONTEST BEGINS WHEN I GET HOME.
CLATTER
カリ…
WHEN I GO HOME ...
...I'LL DO THE PHOTO-BOOK.
JUST YOU WATCH. I'LL IMPRESS YOU YET!
YEAH.



BANG
HEY, OPEN UP!
IS E'ERYBODY ASLEEP ALREADY?
WHY?
SHUMP
...
WHY DID I WEAR A T-SHIRT?!
AAH! IT'S SO COLD IN KYOTO!

WHY DID YOU SHOW UP NOW, OF ALL TIMES?!


YOU IDIOT!
YOU'RE LATE, DUMMY!

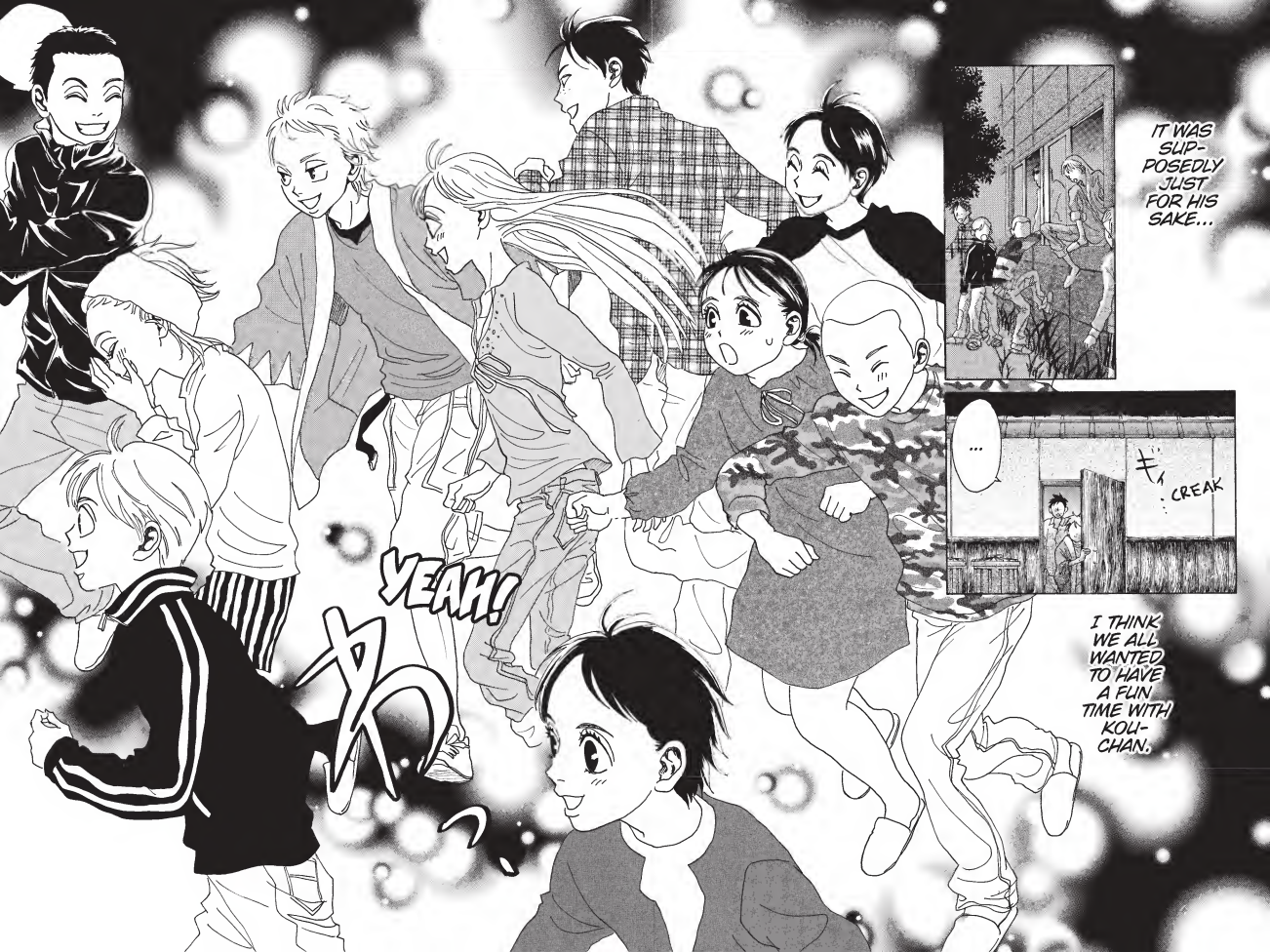
...I GET IT.
I'M NOT HUNGRY!
I AIN'T GOT ANY RICE BALLS THIS TIME.
WHY'RE YOU CRYIN'?
WELL, THEN. SORRY I'M LATE.
YOU WERE ALL LONELY WITH-OUT ME AROUND.

BUT WHEN I THINK ABOUT KOU-CHAN...
...THE FEELING THAT I CAN DO ANYTHING RESOUNDS IN MY CHEST.
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO GO AND SAY IT, TOO?!
NO! I'M JUST— I'M JUST HAPPY MY PREDICTION CAME TRUE, OKAY?!
YOU BIG DUMMY!
WHAT'S WITH YOU?
I'M UNEASY.

6

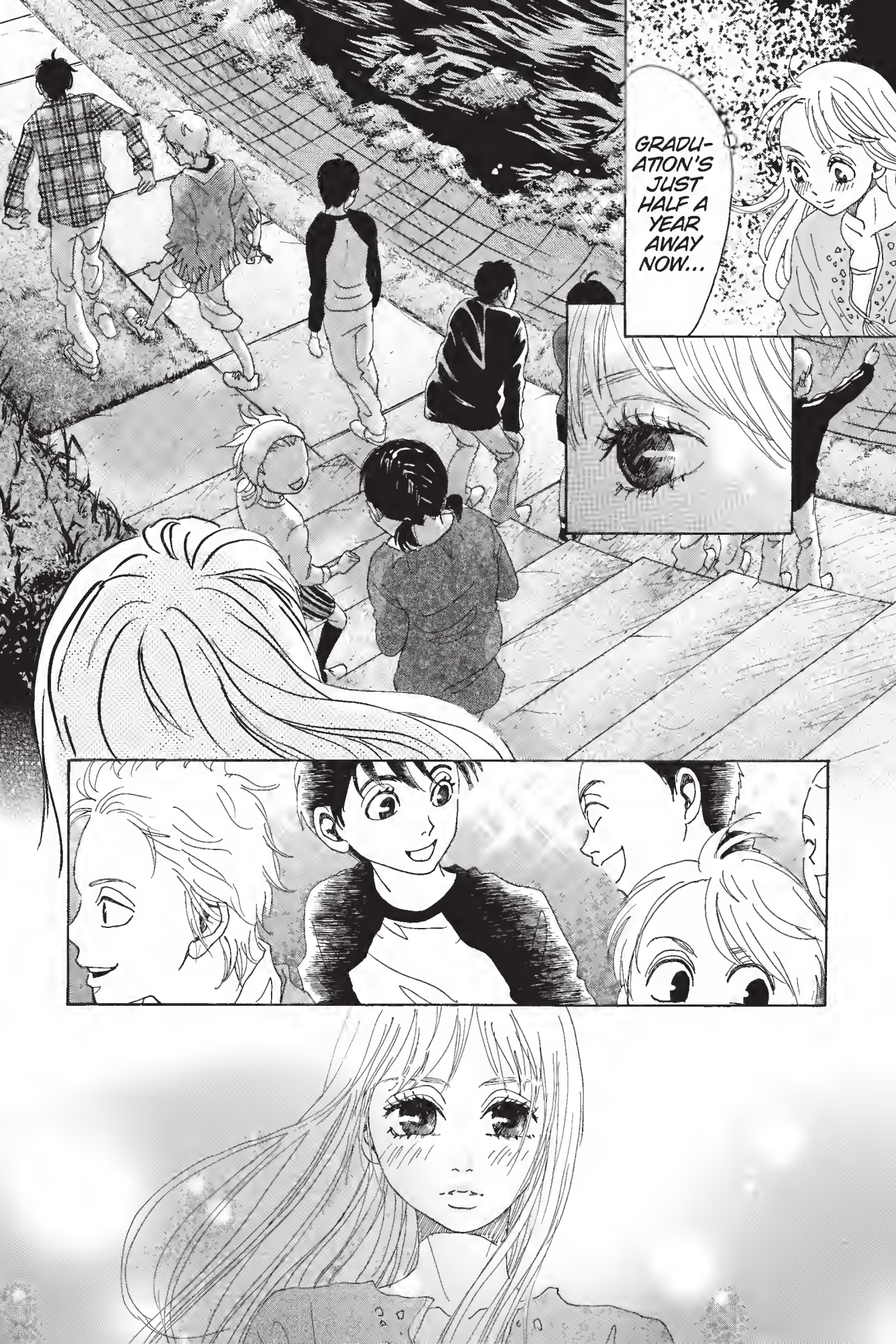
Before the Dawn

WHAT THE HELL'S THIS?
誠
TRUTH
IT'S A GIFT WE BOUGHT YA!
YOU'RE FREEZIN', AIN'TCHA? PUT IT ON!
SHH!
NATSUME-CHAN? WERE YOU CRYING?
NO, NO! I WASN'T!
OH, NO!
THE TEACH-ER'S COME TO CHECK ON US!
LET'S SLIP OUT THE BACK WINDOW.
WHAT ABOUT SHOES?
LET'S JUST GO IN SLIP-PERS.
WE GOTTA GO HOME TOMORROW, SO LET'S SHOW KOU THE SIGHTS OF KYOTO TONIGHT!
HE CAME ALL THE WAY HERE, AFTER ALL!
...
THANKS, Y'ALL!

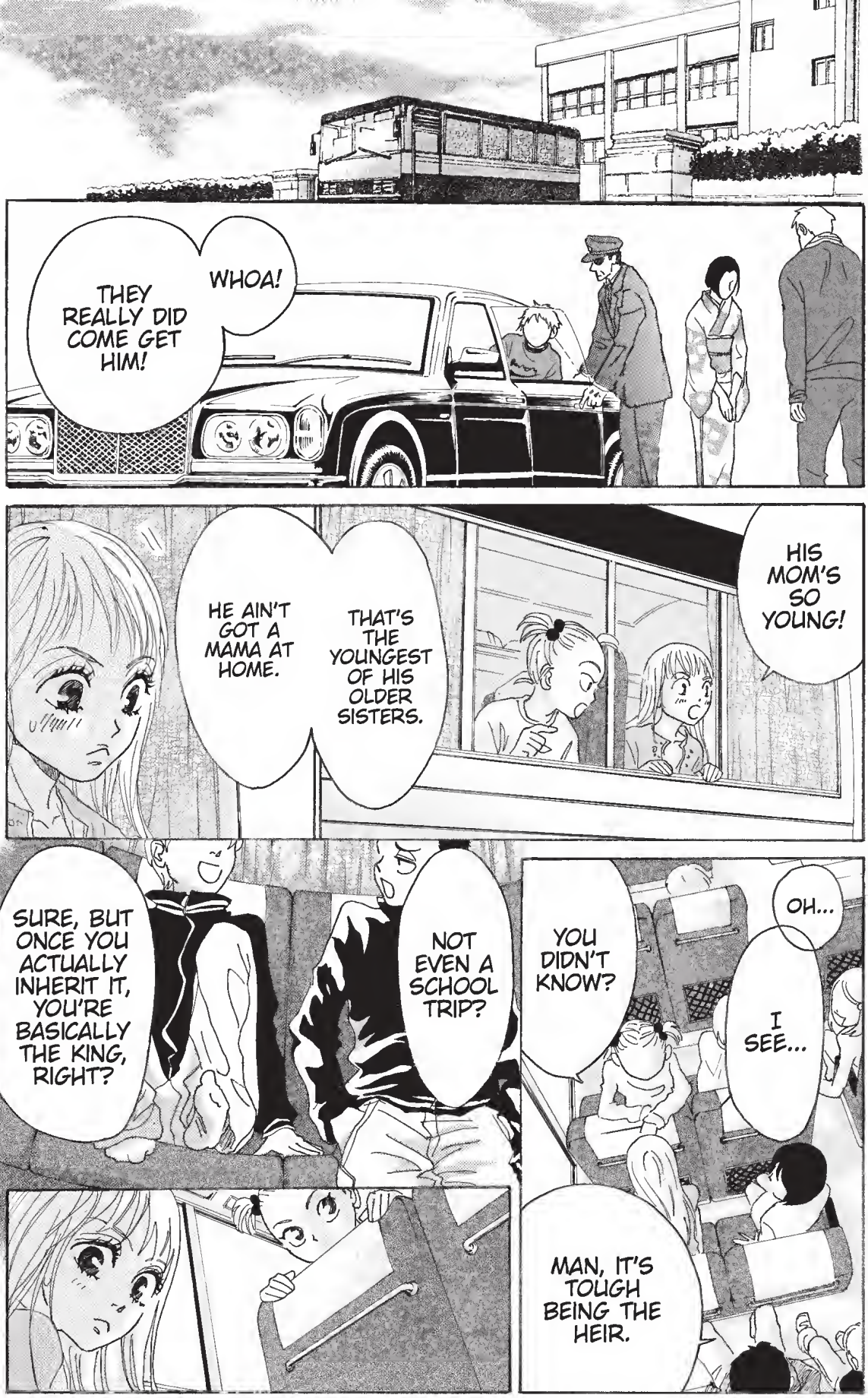

YEAH!
わっ
IT WAS SUP-POSEDLY JUST FOR HIS SAKE...
...
キィ
CREAK
I THINK WE ALL WANTED TO HAVE A FUN TIME WITH KOU-CHAN.

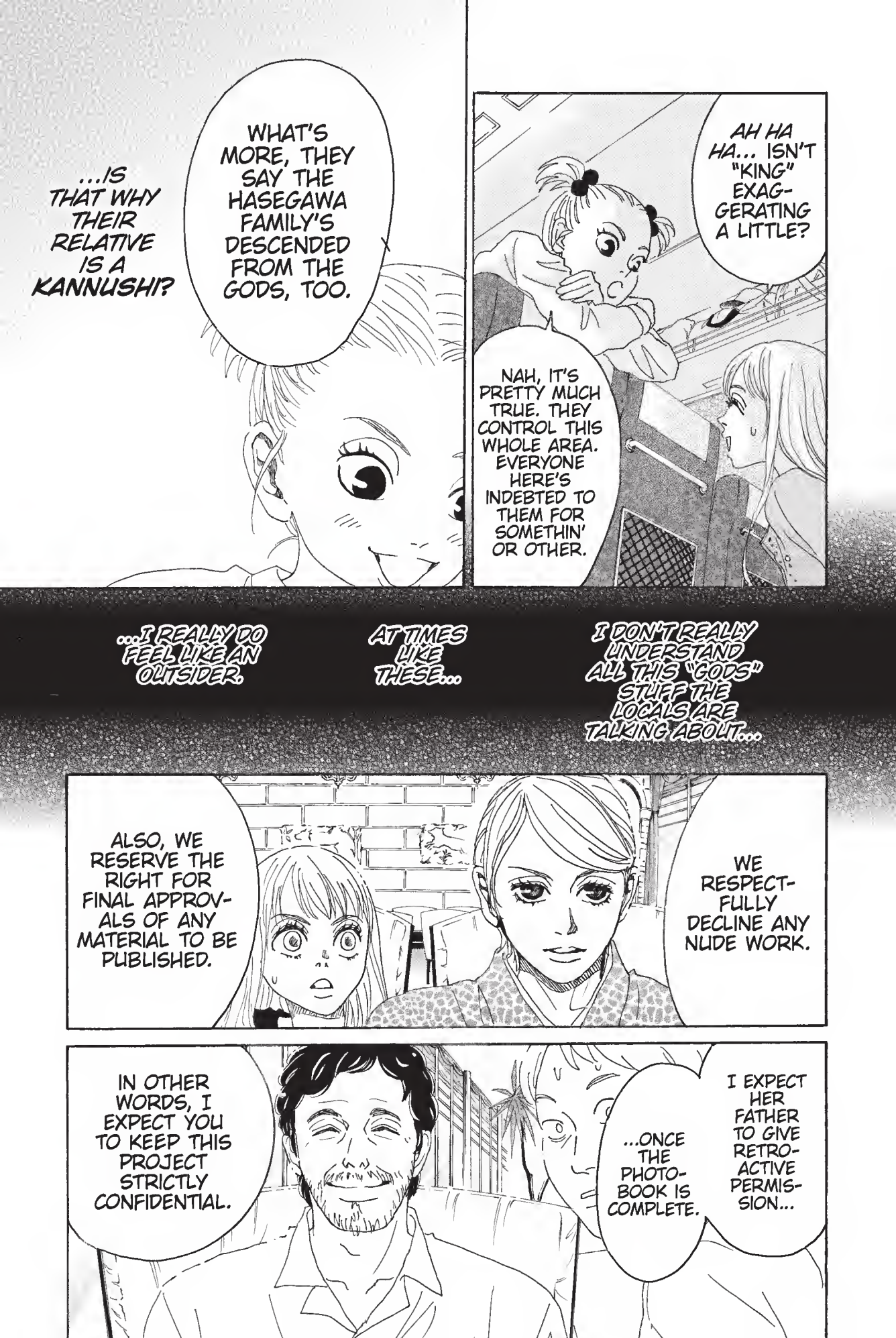
ひゃはは～。
YAH HA HA!
HEH HEH HEH. THAT WAS EASIER THAN I THOUGHT!
THAT REALLY GOT MY HEART PUMPIN'!
IT'S PITCH BLACK!
LET'S HEAD DOWN TOWARDS THE—
THUNK
AAH!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?!
I GOT A CALL FROM THE HASE-GAWAS THAT THEIR SON WAS MISSIN'.
WE'RE GOIN' BACK INSIDE.
COME WITH ME.
ISN'T THE INN...
JUST FOLLOW ME.
AH, EXCUSE ME, IS THIS THE HASEGAWA RESIDENCE?

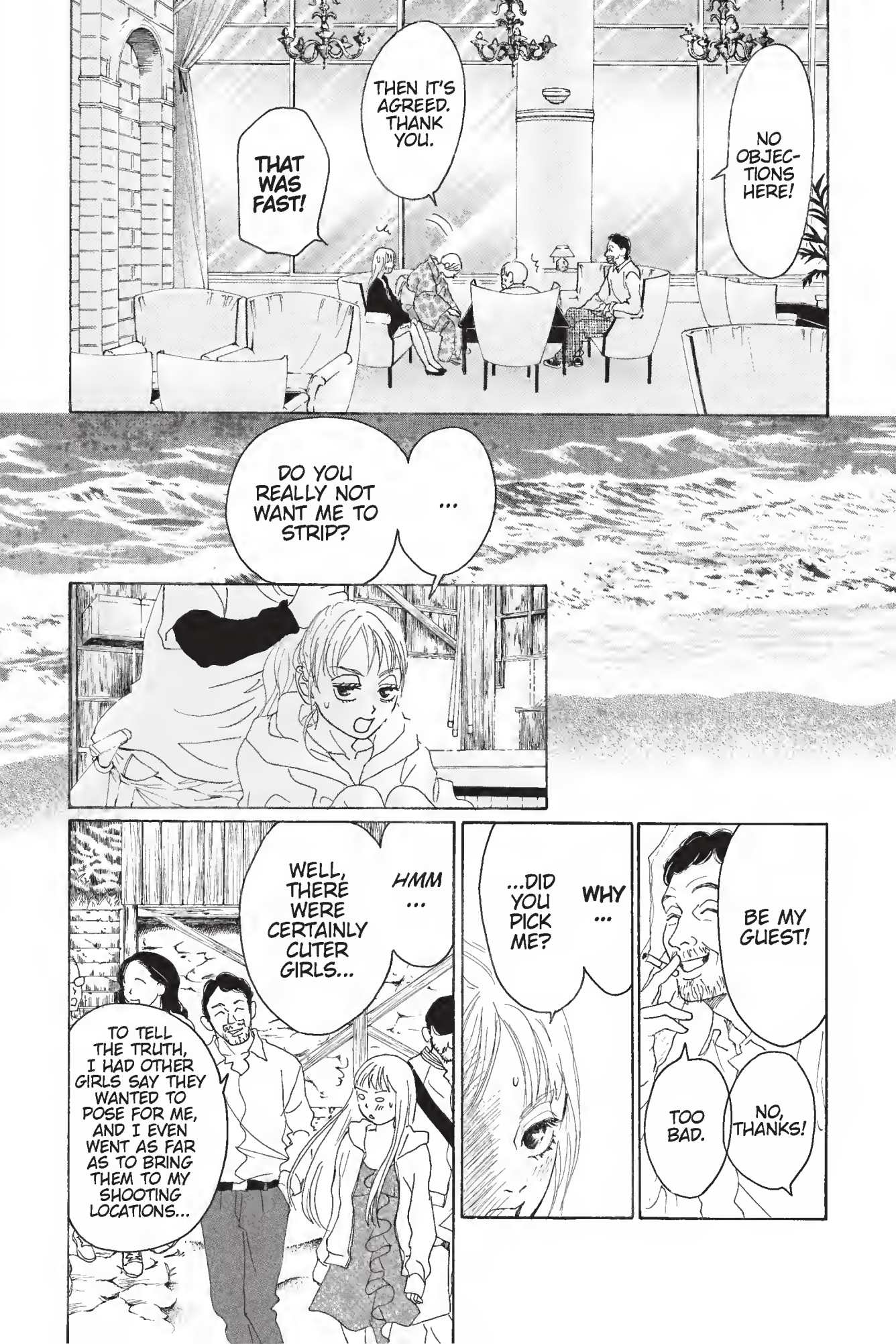
IT'D BE RATHER INCONVENIENT FOR US TO TRAVEL BACK AND FORTH TONIGHT.
SINCE HE'S ALREADY HERE, WHY DON'T WE KEEP HIM FOR THE NIGHT AND RETURN HIM IN THE MORNING WITH THE OTHER CHILDREN?
AS YOU GUESSED, HE DID COME HERE.
...
SHE'S GONNA PICK YOU UP FROM SCHOOL TOMORROW.
YER SISTER WAS WORRIED SICK, YOU KNOW.
HEY! IT'S THE RIVER!
BAD
BAD
AW, I LOVE YA, MAN! THANKS A BUNDLE!
BOM-BA-YE!
IT'S THE SCHOOL TRIP, AFTER ALL!
BOM-BA-YE IS TAKIN' US THE LONG WAY BACK!
WHAT?!
ALL Y'ALL ARE GONNA WRITE OUT AN APOLOGY *100 TIMES EACH* FOR THIS, Y'HEAR?!

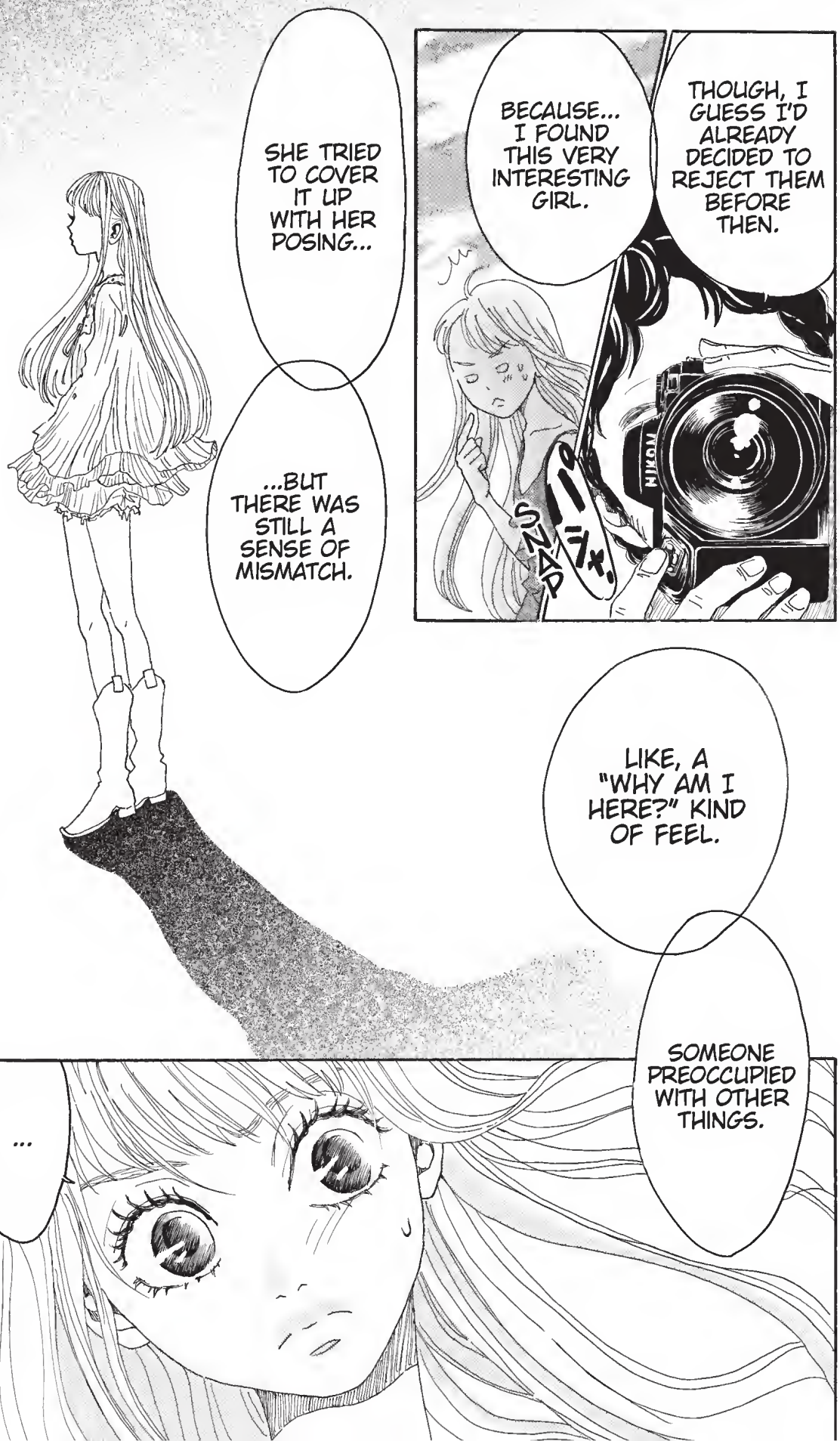

GRADU-
ATION'S
JUST
HALF A
YEAR
AWAY
NOW...

C'MON AN' JOIN US!
WHAT'S UP, NATSUME-CHAN?
THIS TRIP...
BE RIGHT THERE!
AH!
I'D LIKE TO REMEMBER TODAY FOR A LONG TIME.
STILL...
THE TIME SEEMED TO JUST FLY BY.

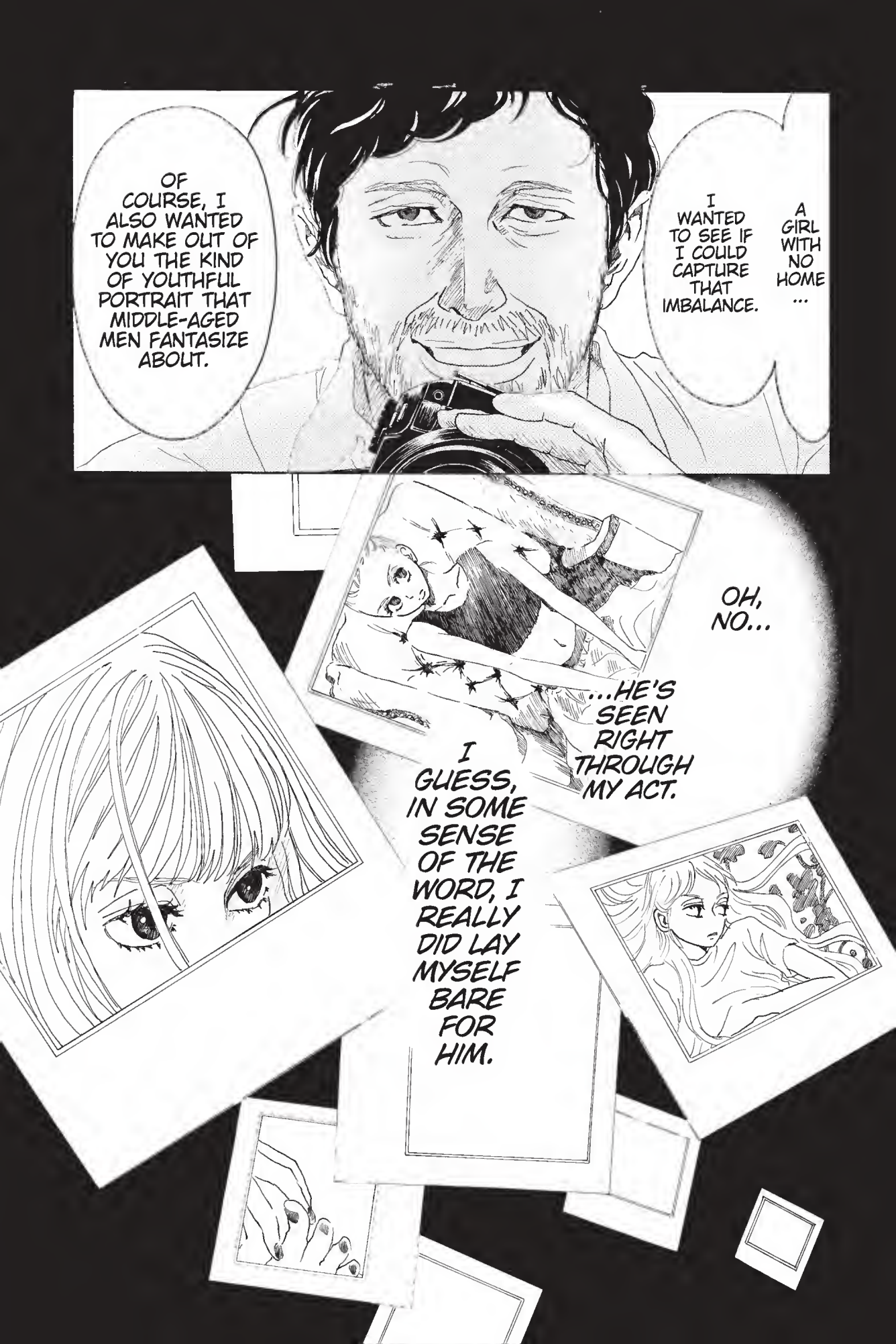

WHOA!
THEY REALLY DID COME GET HIM!
HIS MOM'S SO YOUNG!
THAT'S THE YOUNGEST OF HIS OLDER SISTERS.
HE AIN'T GOT A MAMA AT HOME.
OH...
I SEE...
YOU DIDN'T KNOW?
NOT EVEN A SCHOOL TRIP?
SURE, BUT ONCE YOU ACTUALLY INHERIT IT, YOU'RE BASICALLY THE KING, RIGHT?
MAN, IT'S TOUGH BEING THE HEIR.


...IS THAT WHY THEIR RELATIVE IS A KANNUSHI?
WHAT'S MORE, THEY SAY THE HASEGAWA FAMILY'S DESCENDED FROM THE GODS, TOO.
AH HA HA... ISN'T "KING" EXAG-GERATING A LITTLE?
NAH, IT'S PRETTY MUCH TRUE. THEY CONTROL THIS WHOLE AREA. EVERYONE HERE'S INDEBTED TO THEM FOR SOMETHIN' OR OTHER.
...I REALLY DO FEEL LIKE AN OUTSIDER.
AT TIMES LIKE THESE...
I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND ALL THIS "GODS" STUFF THE LOCALS ARE TALKING ABOUT...
ALSO, WE RESERVE THE RIGHT FOR FINAL APPROV-ALS OF ANY MATERIAL TO BE PUBLISHED.
WE RESPECT-FULLY DECLINE ANY NUDE WORK.
IN OTHER WORDS, I EXPECT YOU TO KEEP THIS PROJECT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.
...ONCE THE PHOTO-BOOK IS COMPLETE.
I EXPECT HER FATHER TO GIVE RETRO-ACTIVE PERMIS-SION...

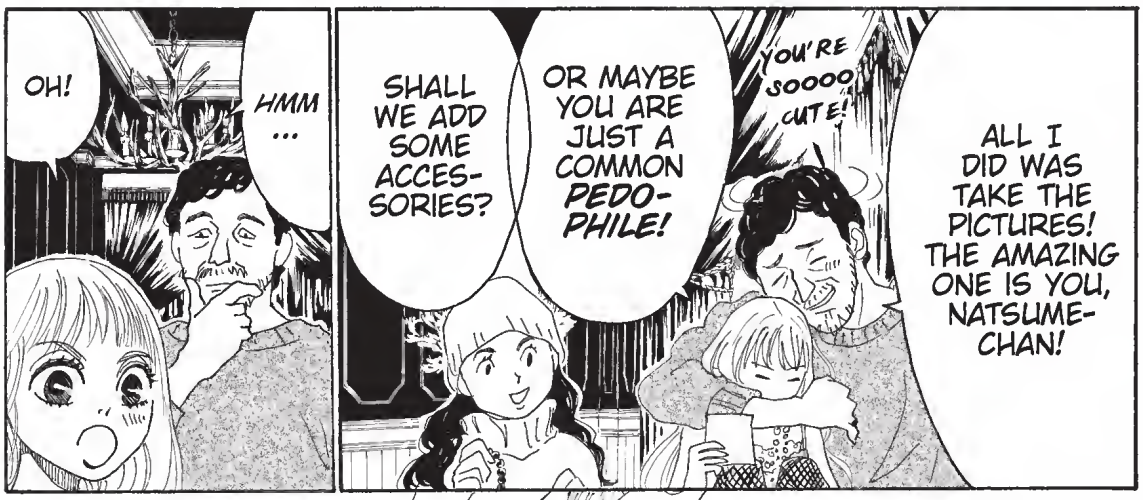

NO OBJEC-TIONS HERE!
THEN IT'S AGREED. THANK YOU.
THAT WAS FAST!
BE MY GUEST!
NO, THANKS!
TOO BAD.
WHY ...
...DID YOU PICK ME?
HMM ...
WELL, THERE WERE CERTAINLY CUTER GIRLS...
TO TELL THE TRUTH, I HAD OTHER GIRLS SAY THEY WANTED TO POSE FOR ME, AND I EVEN WENT AS FAR AS TO BRING THEM TO MY SHOOTING LOCATIONS...
...
DO YOU REALLY NOT WANT ME TO STRIP?

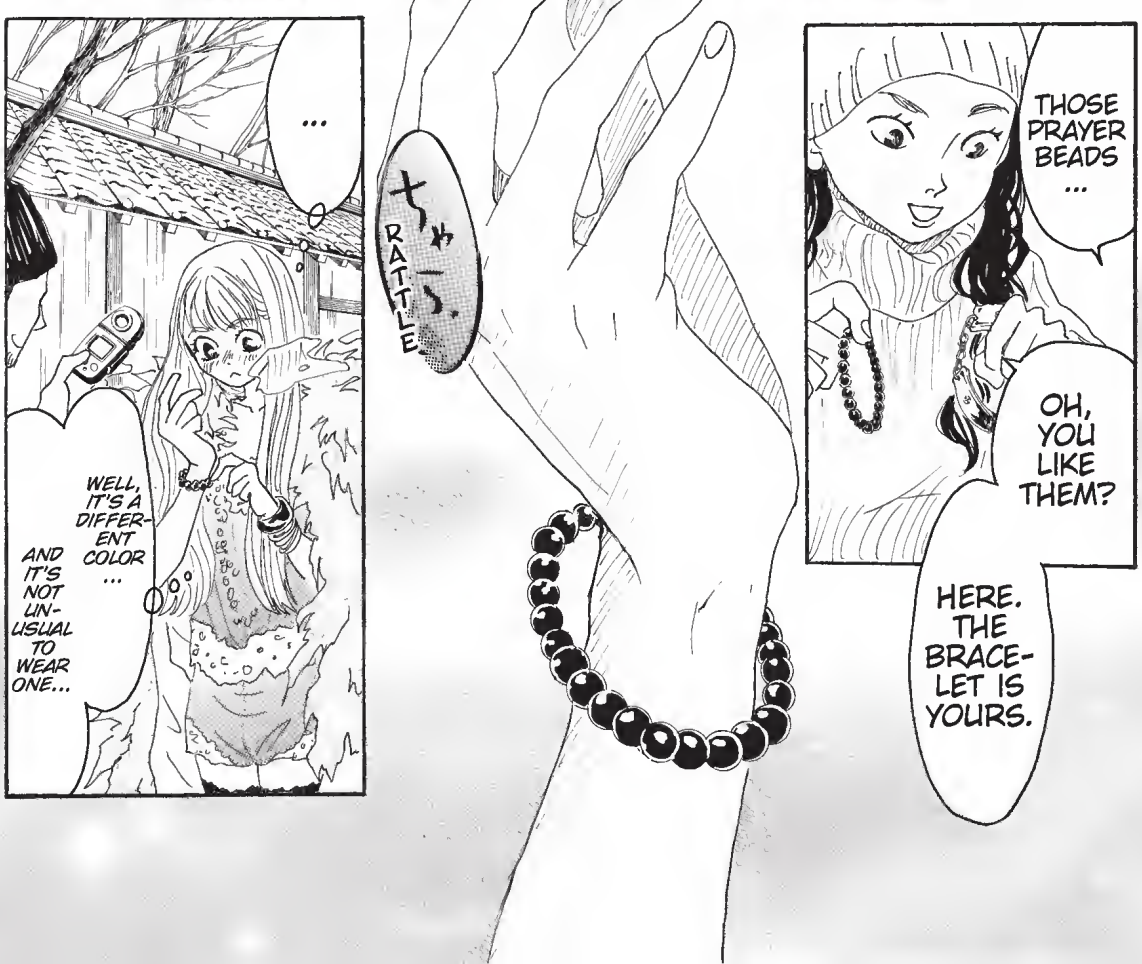

SHE TRIED TO COVER IT UP WITH HER POSING...
...BUT THERE WAS STILL A SENSE OF MISMATCH.
BECAUSE... I FOUND THIS VERY INTERESTING GIRL.
THOUGH, I GUESS I'D ALREADY DECIDED TO REJECT THEM BEFORE THEN.
SNAP
パシャ
NIKON
LIKE, A "WHY AM I HERE?" KIND OF FEEL.
SOMEONE PREOCCUPIED WITH OTHER THINGS.
...

SNAP
HOW DO I PUT IT...
SOMEONE WHO BELIEVED IN HER OWN ABILITY BUT DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO PUT IT TO USE.
ON THE OTHER HAND, SHE HAD AN AMAZING PRESENCE ABOUT HER.
AND THAT'S WHY I'M STUCK HERE TAKING ALL THESE LANDSCAPES WITH YOU.
YOU SEE, NATSUME-CHAN... IT ALWAYS FEELS LIKE YOU'RE ...
...OUT OF PLACE.

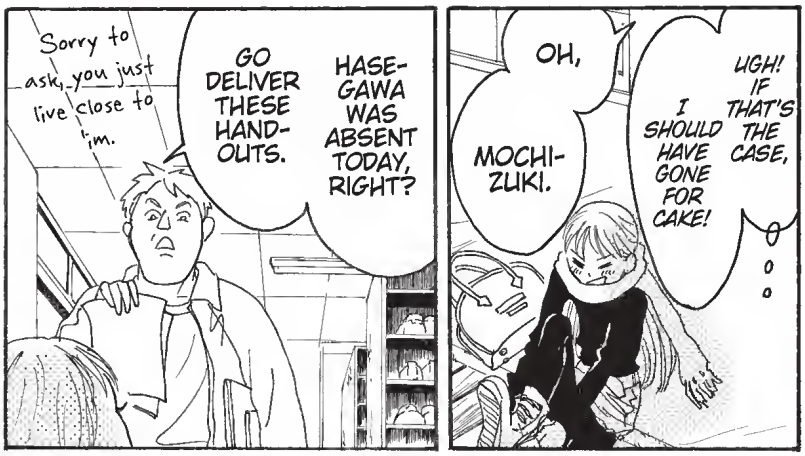

A GIRL WITH NO HOME ...
I WANTED TO SEE IF I COULD CAPTURE THAT IMBALANCE.
OF COURSE, I ALSO WANTED TO MAKE OUT OF YOU THE KIND OF YOUTHFUL PORTRAIT THAT MIDDLE-AGED MEN FANTASIZE ABOUT.
OH, NO...
...HE'S SEEN RIGHT THROUGH MY ACT.
I GUESS, IN SOME SENSE OF THE WORD, I REALLY DID LAY MYSELF BARE FOR HIM.

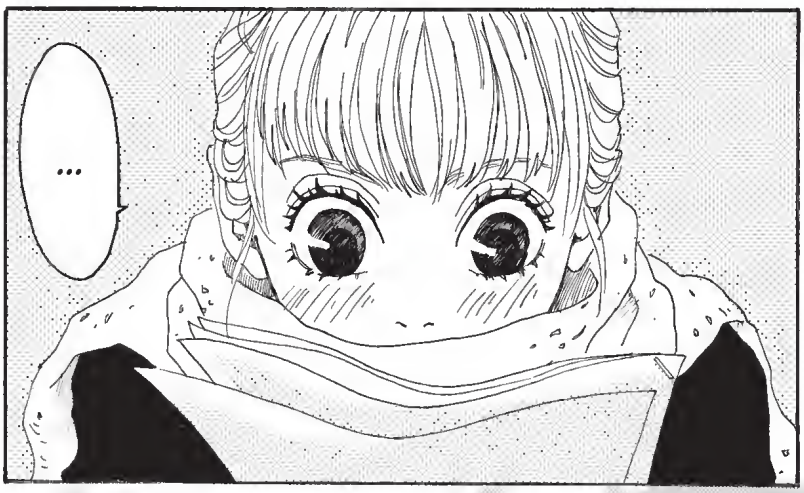
HIRONO-SAN... YOU REALLY ARE AMAZING.

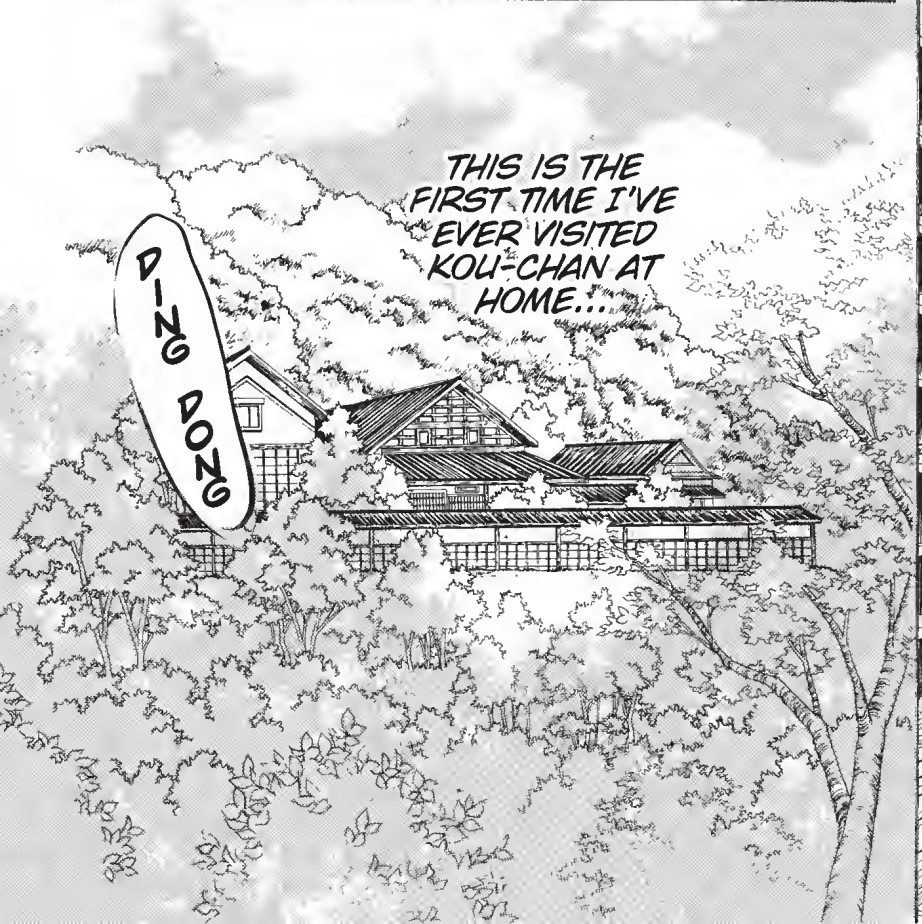

OH!
HMM ...
SHALL WE ADD SOME ACCES-SORIES?
OR MAYBE YOU ARE JUST A COMMON PEDO-PHILE!
YOU'RE SOOOO CUTE!
ALL I DID WAS TAKE THE PICTURES! THE AMAZING ONE IS YOU, NATSUME-CHAN!


...
WELL, IT'S A DIFFER-ENT COLOR ...
AND IT'S NOT UN-USUAL TO WEAR ONE...
ちゃ〜ら
RATTLE
THOSE PRAYER BEADS ...
OH, YOU LIKE THEM?
HERE. THE BRACE-LET IS YOURS.

I DOUBT ANYONE WILL THINK I'M JUST COPYING KOU-CHAN.
OOOH!
THAT'S A MATCH FOR KOU-CHAN'S, AIN'T IT?
HEY, WANNA COME OVER TONIGHT?
MAMA TOLD ME TO INVITE SOME FRIENDS OVER TO TRY A NEW CAKE FOR THE CAFÉ!
I'M SO THERE!
OH, YEAH.
IT'S A REAL ONE, AIN'T IT.
Y'KNOW ...
WELL, KOU-CHAN'S IS,
IT'S A DIFFERENT COLOR! IT'S NOT UNUSUAL TO WEAR ONE!
SORRY, I HAVE TO HELP OUT AT THE INN.
I HAVE TO GO NOW. SORRY! BYE!
AWW ...
I'M GLAD WE NEVER HAVE TO HELP WITH OUR FAMILY BUSINESSES!
NATSUME-CHAN SURE IS A GOOD KID, WORKIN' THROUGH WINTER BREAK LIKE SHE IS. I WISH SHE HAD TIME TO RELAX, THOUGH.
HA HA HA!
One new message...

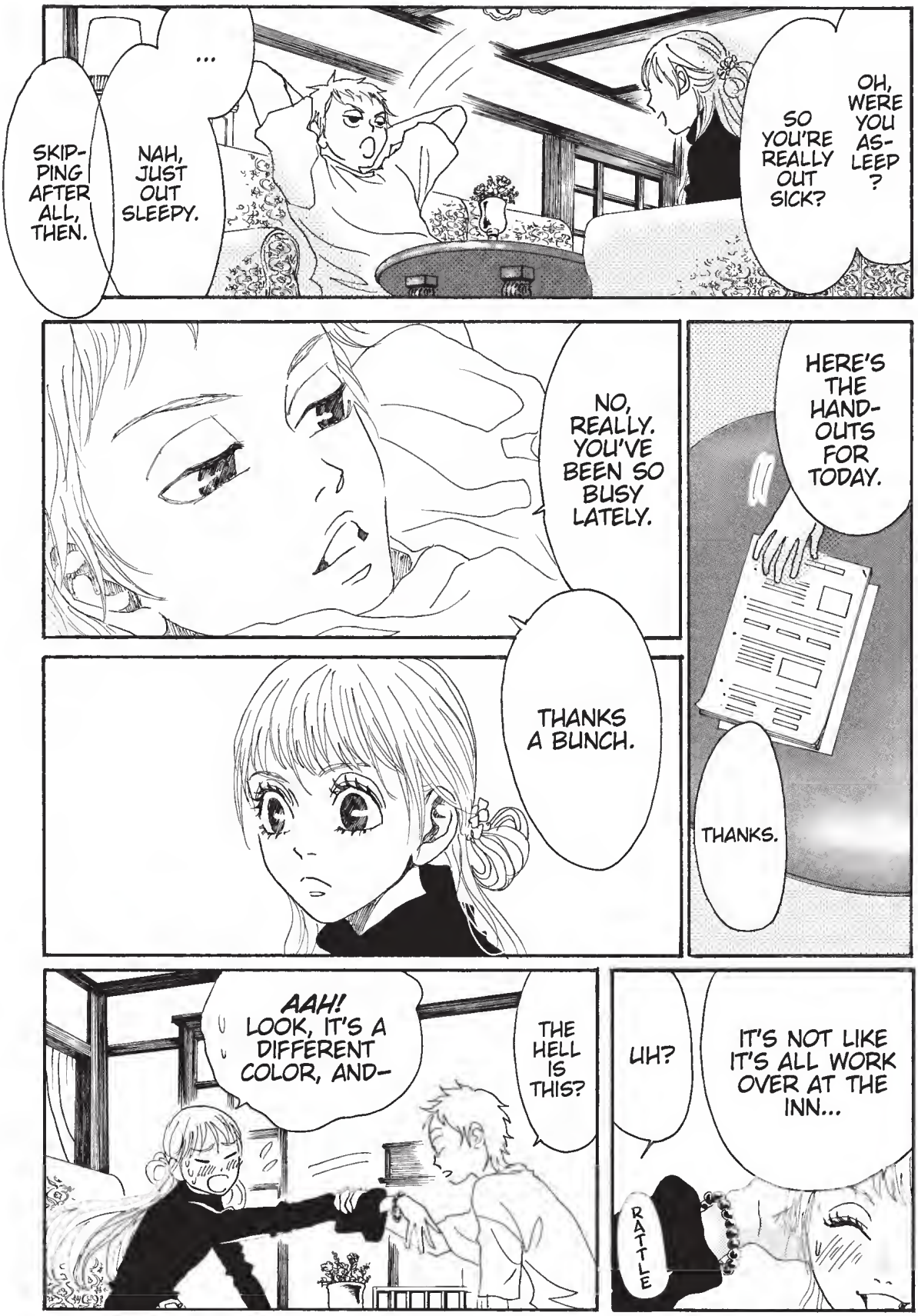

Sorry to ask, you just live close to Im.
GO DELIVER THESE HAND-OUTS.
HASE-GAWA WAS ABSENT TODAY, RIGHT?
OH, MOCHI-ZUKI.
UGH! IF THAT'S THE CASE, I SHOULD HAVE GONE FOR CAKE!
...

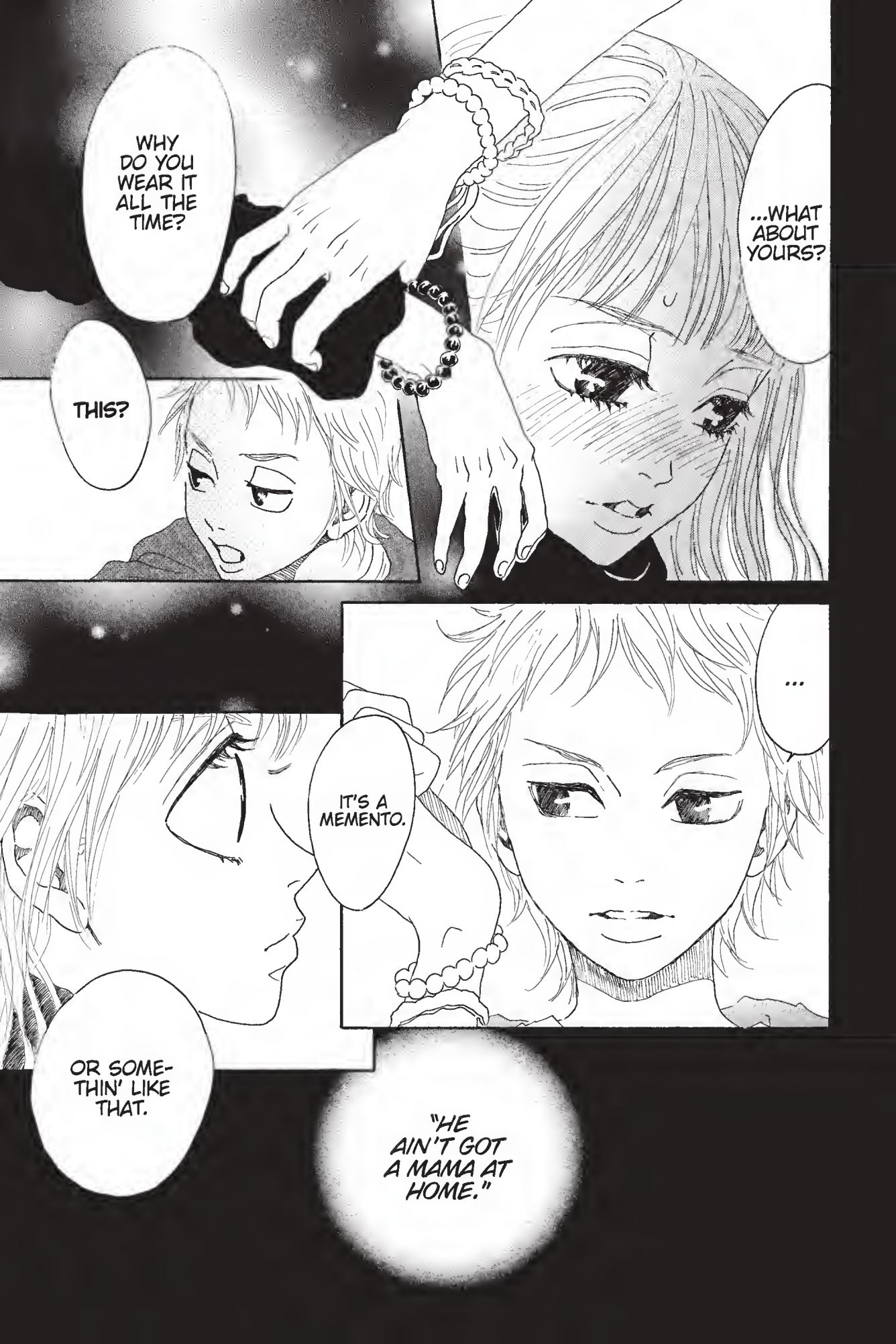


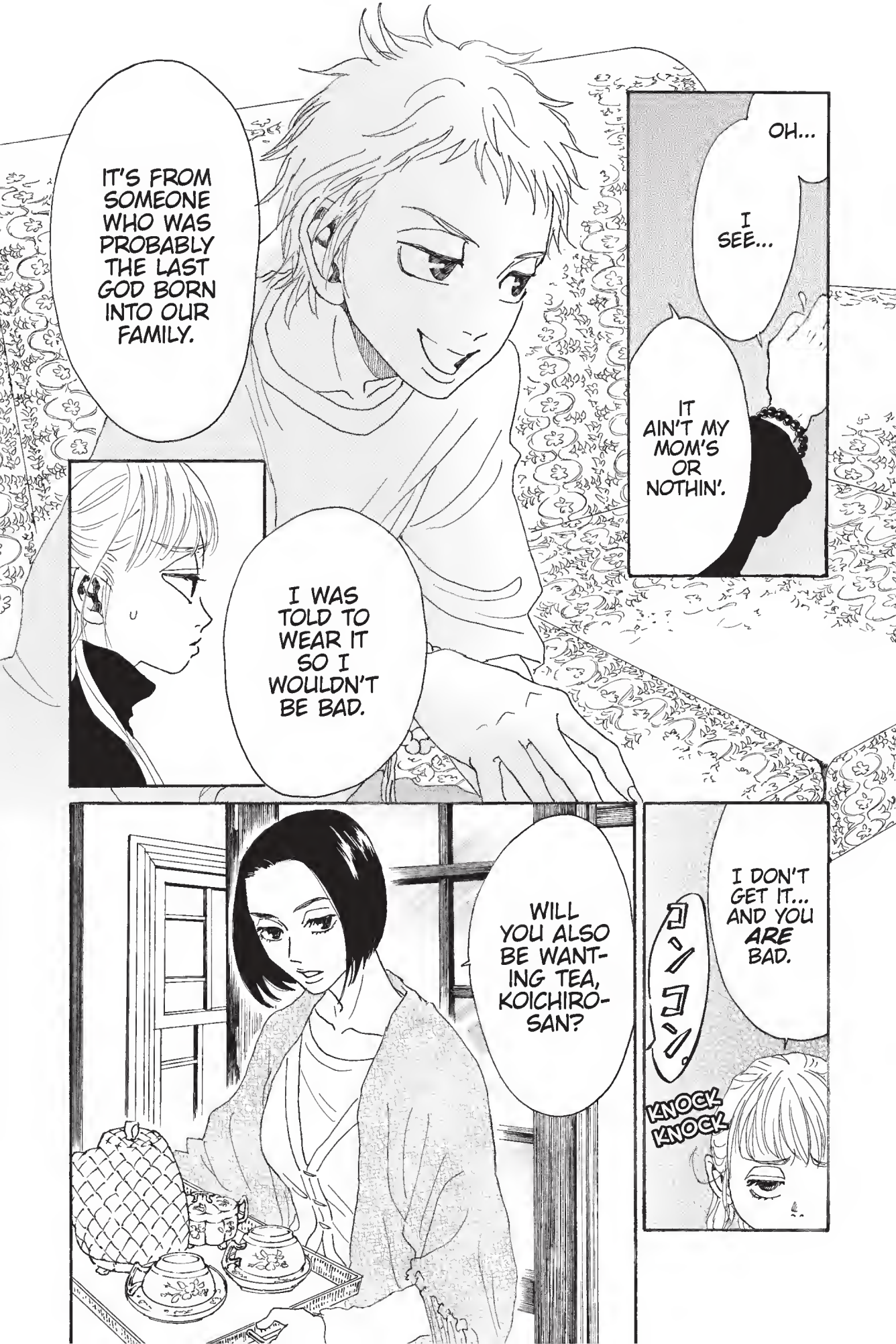

DING DONG
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER VISITED KOU-CHAN AT HOME...

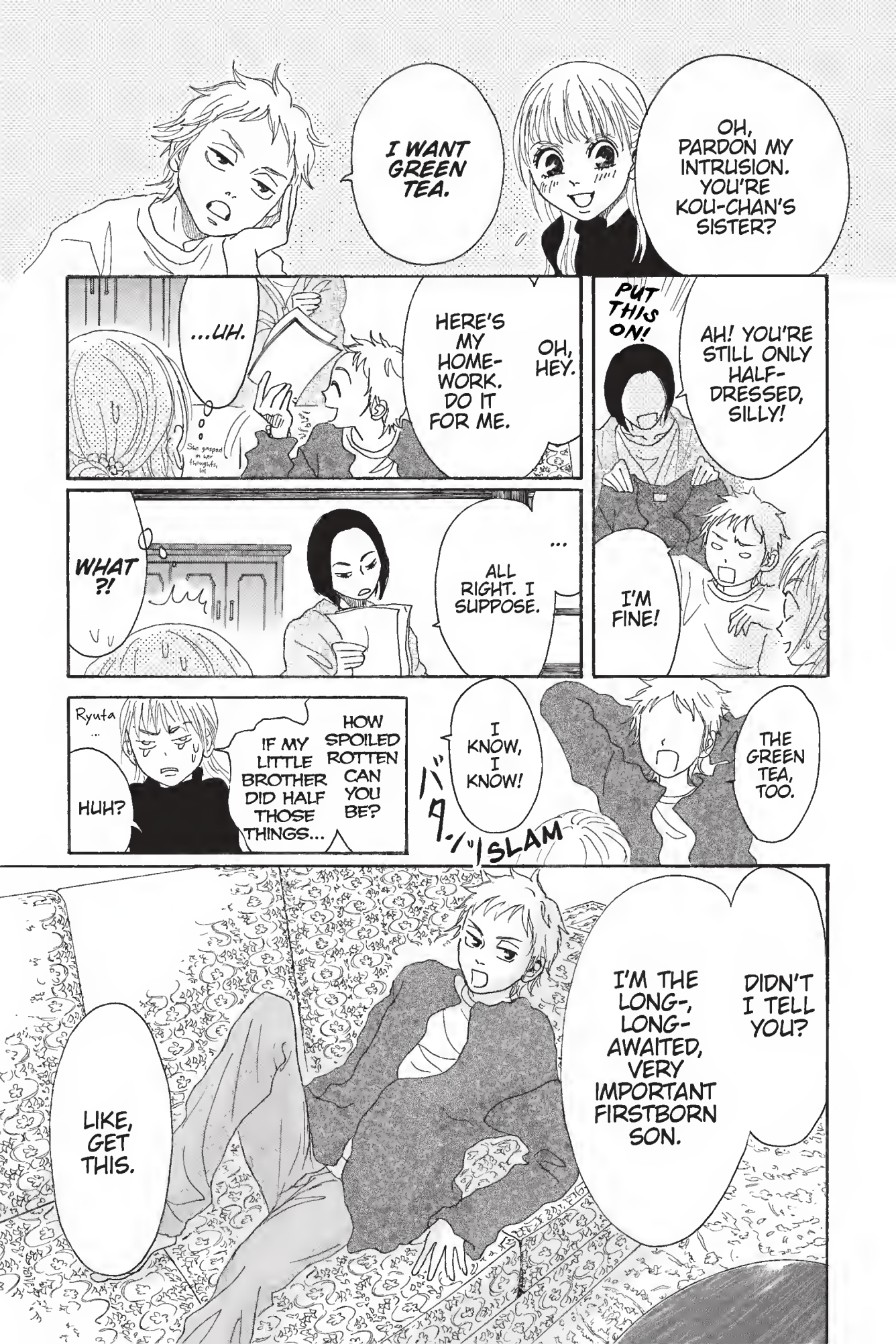
This is Doi. Thanks for your hard work.
I know we said Hirono-san was supposed to be in today, but we're delaying until tomorrow. Sorry. See you then!

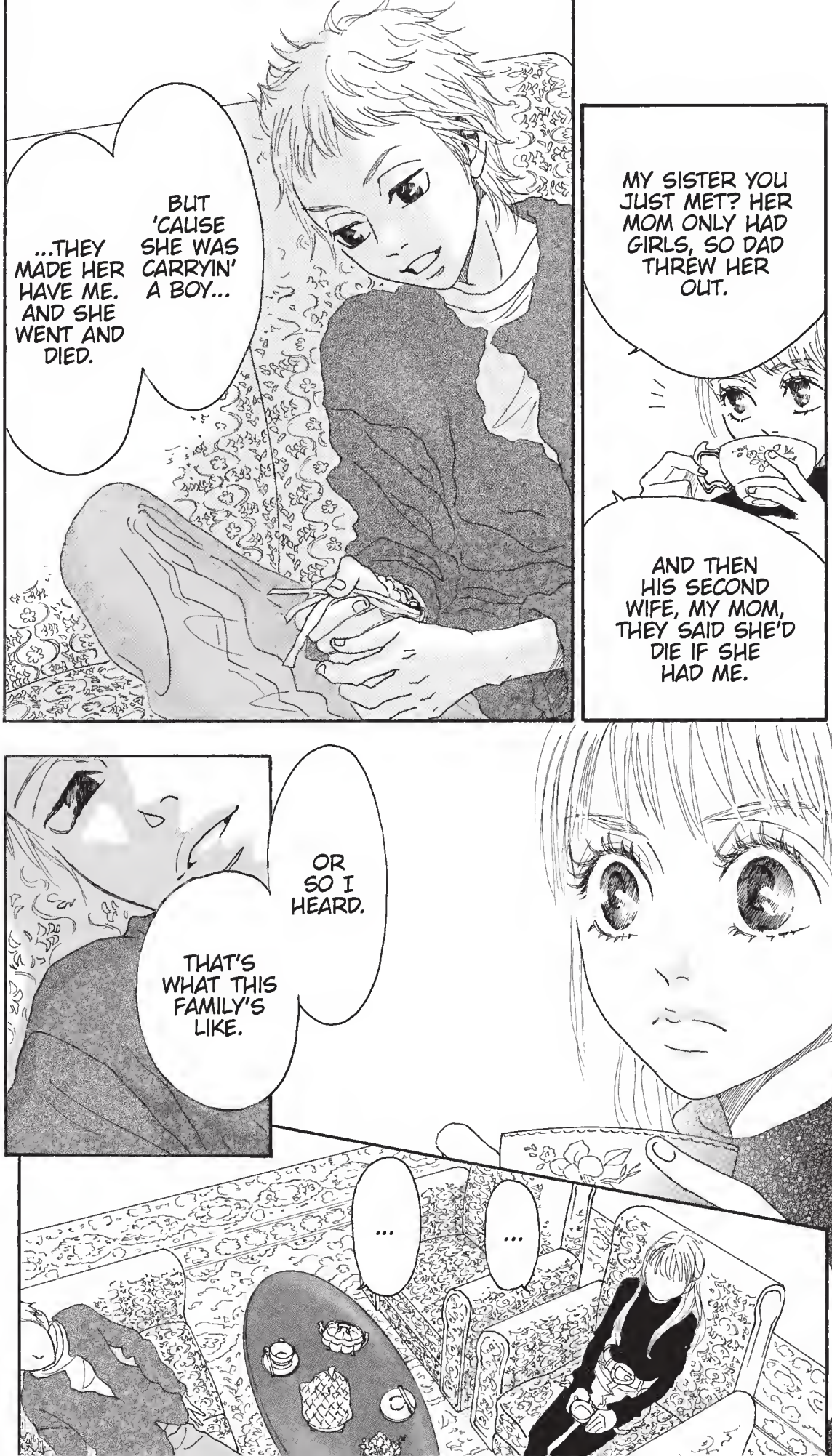
I WILL GO CALL FOR THE YOUNG MASTER PRES-ENTLY.
WOULD YOU CARE FOR SOME TEA?
IF—
IF IT'S NOT TOO MUCH TROUBLE ...
WOW ...
THEY WON'T EVEN LET KIDS IN TO SEE HIM?
HEY.
WHAT D'YA WANT?
SCRITCH
ボリ
SCRATCH
ボリ


OH, WERE YOU ASLEEP?
SO YOU'RE REALLY OUT SICK?
...
NAH, JUST OUT SLEEPY.
SKIPPING AFTER ALL, THEN.
NO, REALLY. YOU'VE BEEN SO BUSY LATELY.
HERE'S THE HANDOUTS FOR TODAY.
THANKS A BUNCH.
THANKS.
AAH! LOOK, IT'S A DIFFERENT COLOR, AND-
THE HELL IS THIS?
UH?
IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S ALL WORK OVER AT THE INN...
RATTLE


...WHAT ABOUT YOURS?
WHY DO YOU WEAR IT ALL THE TIME?
THIS?
...
IT'S A MEMENTO.
OR SOME-THIN' LIKE THAT.
"HE AIN'T GOT A MAMA AT HOME."


IT'S FROM SOMEONE WHO WAS PROBABLY THE LAST GOD BORN INTO OUR FAMILY.
OH...
I SEE...
IT AIN'T MY MOM'S OR NOTHIN'.
I WAS TOLD TO WEAR IT SO I WOULDN'T BE BAD.
I DON'T GET IT... AND YOU ARE BAD.
コンコン
KNOCK KNOCK
WILL YOU ALSO BE WANT-ING TEA, KOICHIRO-SAN?


I WANT GREEN TEA.
OH, PARDON MY INTRUSION. YOU'RE KOU-CHAN'S SISTER?
...UH.
She gasped in her thoughts, lol
HERE'S MY HOME-WORK. DO IT FOR ME.
OH, HEY.
PUT THIS ON!
AH! YOU'RE STILL ONLY HALF-DRESSED, SILLY!
I'M FINE!
WHAT?!
...
ALL RIGHT. I SUPPOSE.
Ryuta
...
HUH?
IF MY LITTLE BROTHER DID HALF THOSE THINGS...
HOW SPOILED ROTTEN CAN YOU BE?
バタン!
SLAM
I KNOW, I KNOW!
THE GREEN TEA, TOO.
LIKE, GET THIS.
I'M THE LONG-, LONG-AWAITED, VERY IMPORTANT FIRSTBORN SON.
DIDN'T I TELL YOU?


MY SISTER YOU JUST MET? HER MOM ONLY HAD GIRLS, SO DAD THREW HER OUT.
AND THEN HIS SECOND WIFE, MY MOM, THEY SAID SHE'D DIE IF SHE HAD ME.
BUT 'CAUSE SHE WAS CARRYIN' A BOY...
...THEY MADE HER HAVE ME. AND SHE WENT AND DIED.
OR SO I HEARD.
THAT'S WHAT THIS FAMILY'S LIKE.
...
...

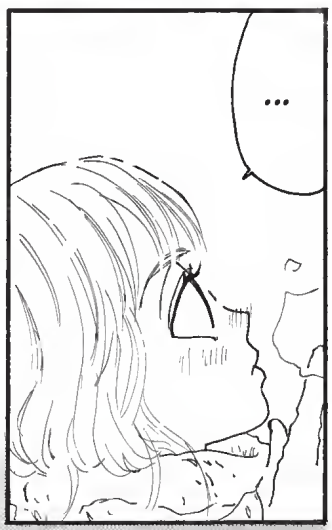
YOU DON'T GOTTA MAKE THAT FACE.
I'M LUCKY! I GOT TO BE BORN A KING!
THE WORLD IS FULL OF INEQUALITY, AND I'M ON TOP.
はは HA HA HA
STILL... I THINK SHE MUST HAVE DECIDED TO HAVE YOU ON HER—
LOOK.
I DIDN'T ASK FOR YOUR OPINION.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID ALL THAT IN THE FIRST PLACE.

EVEN IF IT WAS JUST A BIT...
...
...HE OPENED UP TO ME.
HEY.
DON'T YOU GOT WORK TO DO AT THE INN?
YOU MIGHT WANNA HEAD HOME.
...YEAH.
I WILL.

...
BY THE WAY,
WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE NUDE SHOOT?
OH.
I DIDN'T DO IT.
...
IZZAT SO.
DOES THAT MEAN HE'S GLAD I DIDN'T POSE NUDE?
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?
HE SMILED?
...
WELL, IT'S TRUE I DIDN'T DO NUDES.
AND WHEN THE PHOTO-BOOK'S DONE, I CAN STILL SURPRISE HIM.

KOU-CHAN...
I DON'T REALLY GET HIM.
...
AN IMBALANCED YOUNG KING...
BRRING
D
D
D

I wish... I really wish I could take pictures of you in the snow, Natsume...
IT'S STILL WARMER HERE THAN IN TOKYO.
THAT'S UP TO THE GODS, ISN'T IT?
I wonder if it'll snow where you are tomorrow?
AH!
HIRO-NO-SAN?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
OH!
CLAP
CLAP
I GUESS I COULD ALWAYS ASK, LIKE THE LOCALS DO.
WOW...



I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.

THINGS ARE GOING AMAZINGLY WELL.

DID YOU KNOW? THE GOD OF THIS MOUNTAIN IS SAID TO BE A TERRIBLE HAG.

SNAP
AN AB-SOLUTELY HIDEOUS WOMAN.
A HAG?

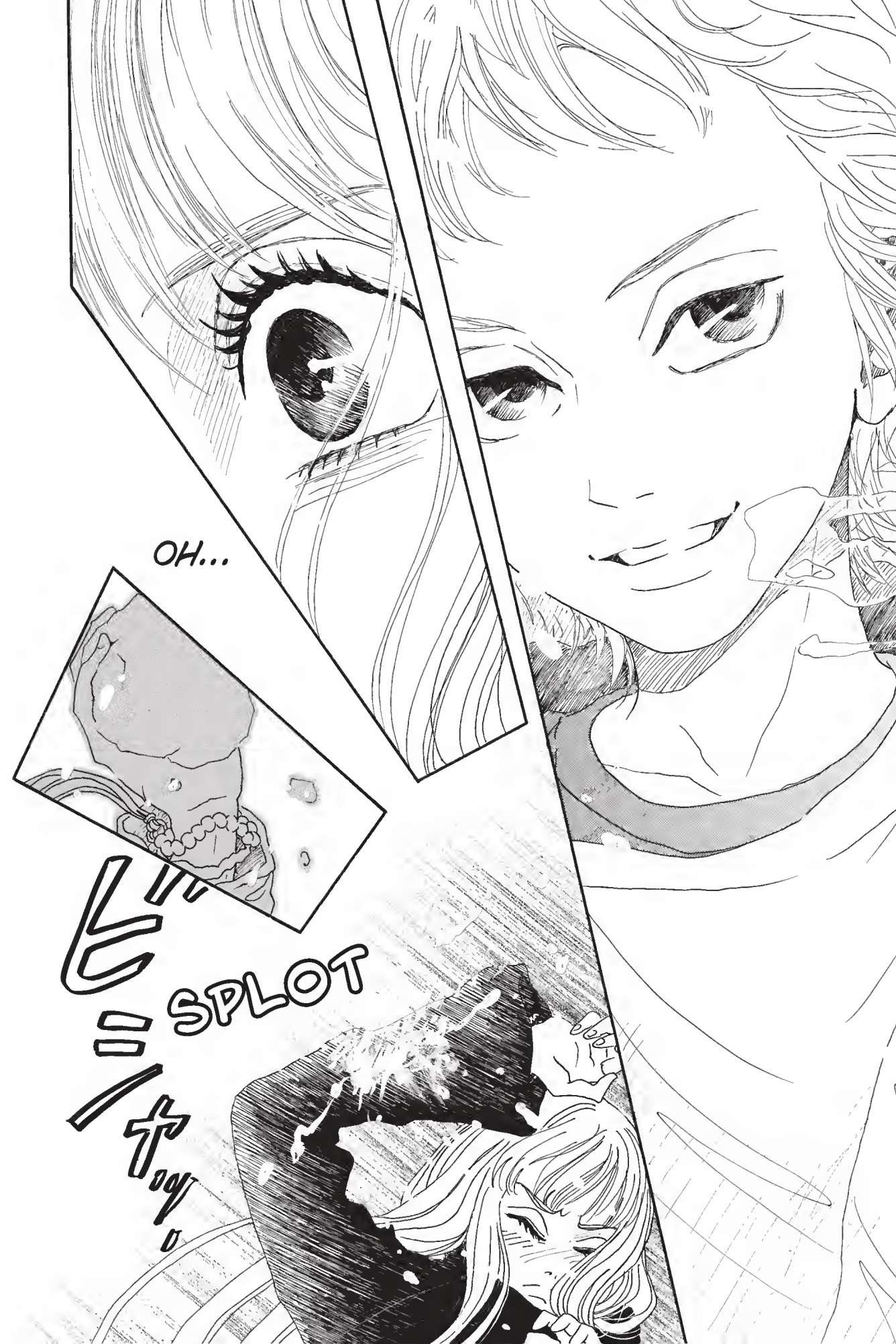
SHE WAS BORN A GOOD GODDESS, BUT WAS INTENSELY JEALOUS.
SO THEY SAY THAT, WHENEVER A WOMAN WOULD COME TO THIS MOUNTAIN, NATURAL DISASTERS WOULD FOLLOW.
ONE DAY, A YOUNG MAN CAME AND THOUGHT THE HAG GODDESS LOOKED BEAUTIFUL UNDER THE MOON'S SILVERY LIGHT...
...SO HE BUILT THIS SHRINE AT THE PLACE WHERE THAT LIGHT SHONE.
AND, STRANGELY ENOUGH, THE GOD-DESS HAS BEEN CALM EVER SINCE.

THAT SUPPOSED YOUNG MAN'S DESCENDANTS STILL PROTECT THIS LAND.
IT'S A FAMILY BY THE NAME OF HASE-GAWA, AND—
OH! THE BOY WHO AT-TACKED YOU THAT ONE TIME IS A HASEGAWA.
OH! REALLY?
WELL... JUDGING FROM HIM, I'D SAY IT'S ALL TRUE.
...HIRO-NO-SAN.
YES?
DO YOU REALLY THINK HE'S THAT SPECIAL?
YOU SEE ... I DECIDED TO DO THIS PHOTO-BOOK WITH YOU...
SNAP
...SO I COULD SHOW HIM UP.

I...
...
I SEE.
I WONDER IF I CAN BEAT HIM.
DID YOU KNOW?
...YOU ABSOLUTELY CAN!

BEFORE ...
HE CALLED YOU "HIS."
SPLAT

...


OH...
SPLOT

HEY!
KOU-CHAN!
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK!
I'M NOT DOING NUDES!
SO WHAT?

KOU-CHAN...
HE'S JUST LAUGHING AT MY GUILTY CONSCIENCE.

HUFF HUFF
HUFF HUFF
...
FLUMP

SNAP
SNAP
SNAP
SNAP
HM?
...HIRONO-SAN.
I...
...WANT TO BEAT HIM.

SNAP
YOU'RE WINNING RIGHT NOW!
CRUNCH
HEH.
I WISH THAT WERE TRUE.
I WISH.
ITS COLD PIERCES RIGHT THROUGH ME.
THE SNOW...
AAH...

7

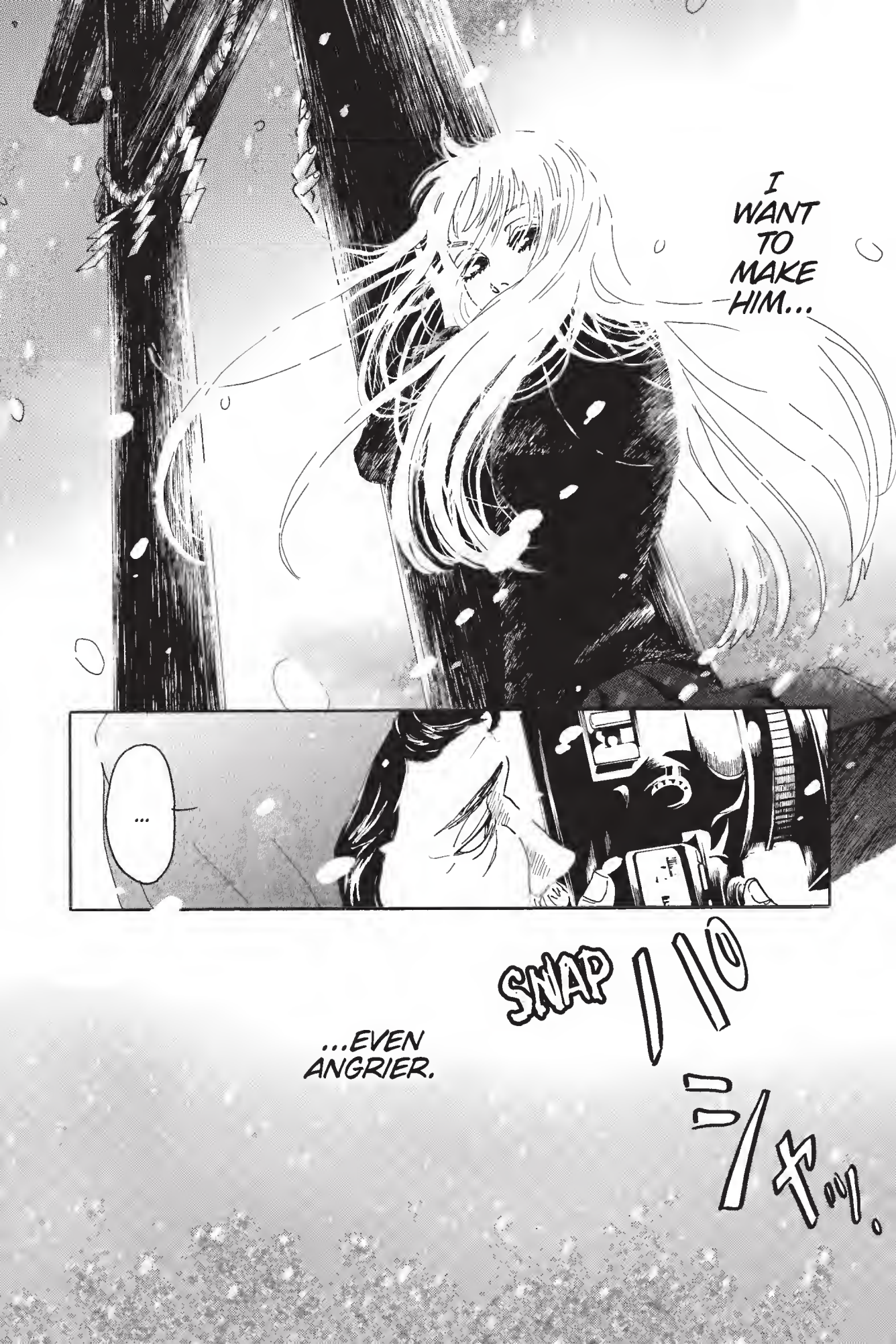
Yearning

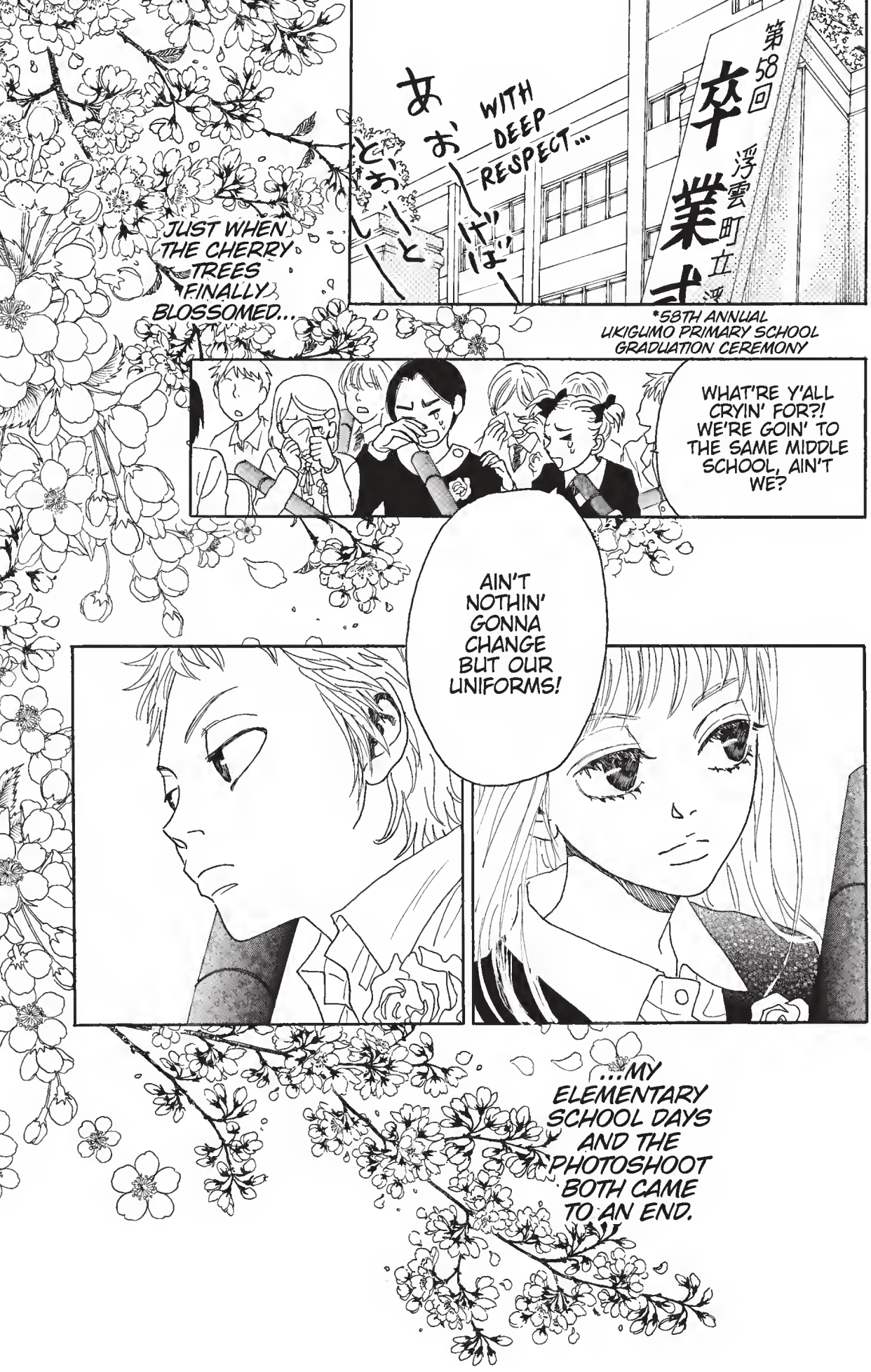
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! IT'S STILL SNOWING!
HA HA HA
KOU! THIS'S GOTTA BE PUNISHMENT FOR WHEN YOU WENT AN' CRASHED THE FESTIVAL!
IT'S ALREADY MARCH!
Wait, I did, too!

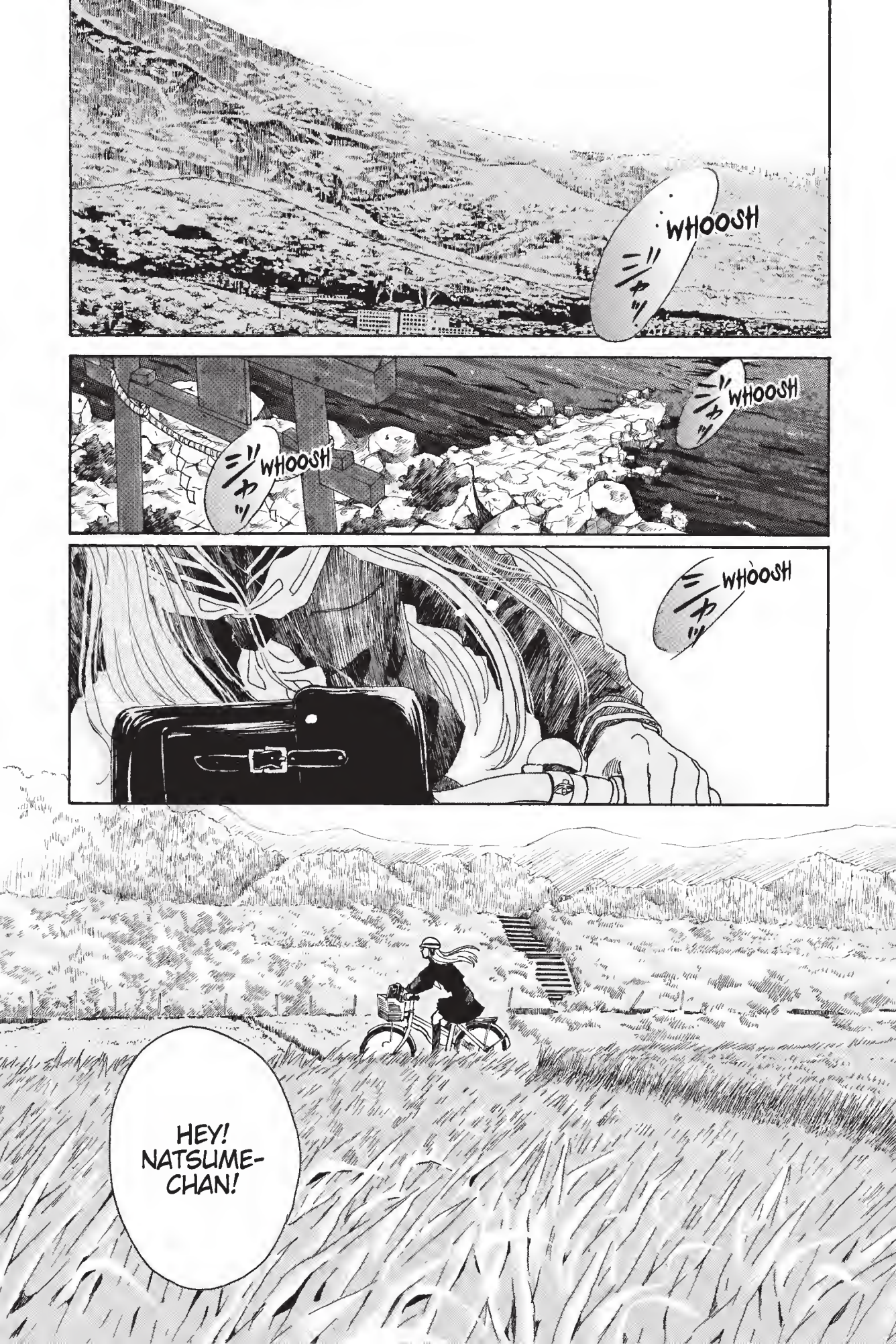
COULD BE 'CAUSE WE GOT SOMEONE DOIN' STRANGE THINGS 'ROUND THESE PARTS.

THE CHERRY TREES ARE SUPPOSED TO BE BLOOMING ALREADY IN THIS REGION.
BUT FROM KOU-CHAN.
THE ANGER FOR THOSE STRANGE THINGS CAME NOT FROM THE GODS,
I REALLY WANTED THE FINAL SHOTS TO BE OF CHERRY BLOSSOMS.
THAT'S TOO BAD.
ビリ
SPLOT
立入禁止
NO ENTRY
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING ?!
CRUNCH

SPLAT
WHAT IS IT?
SNAP
NO.
YOU DON'T WANT IT TO END?
KOU-CHAN IS THERE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE LENS.
I WANT TO SHOW KOU-CHAN THESE PICTURES SOON.
I LIKE BEING PHOTO-GRAPHED.

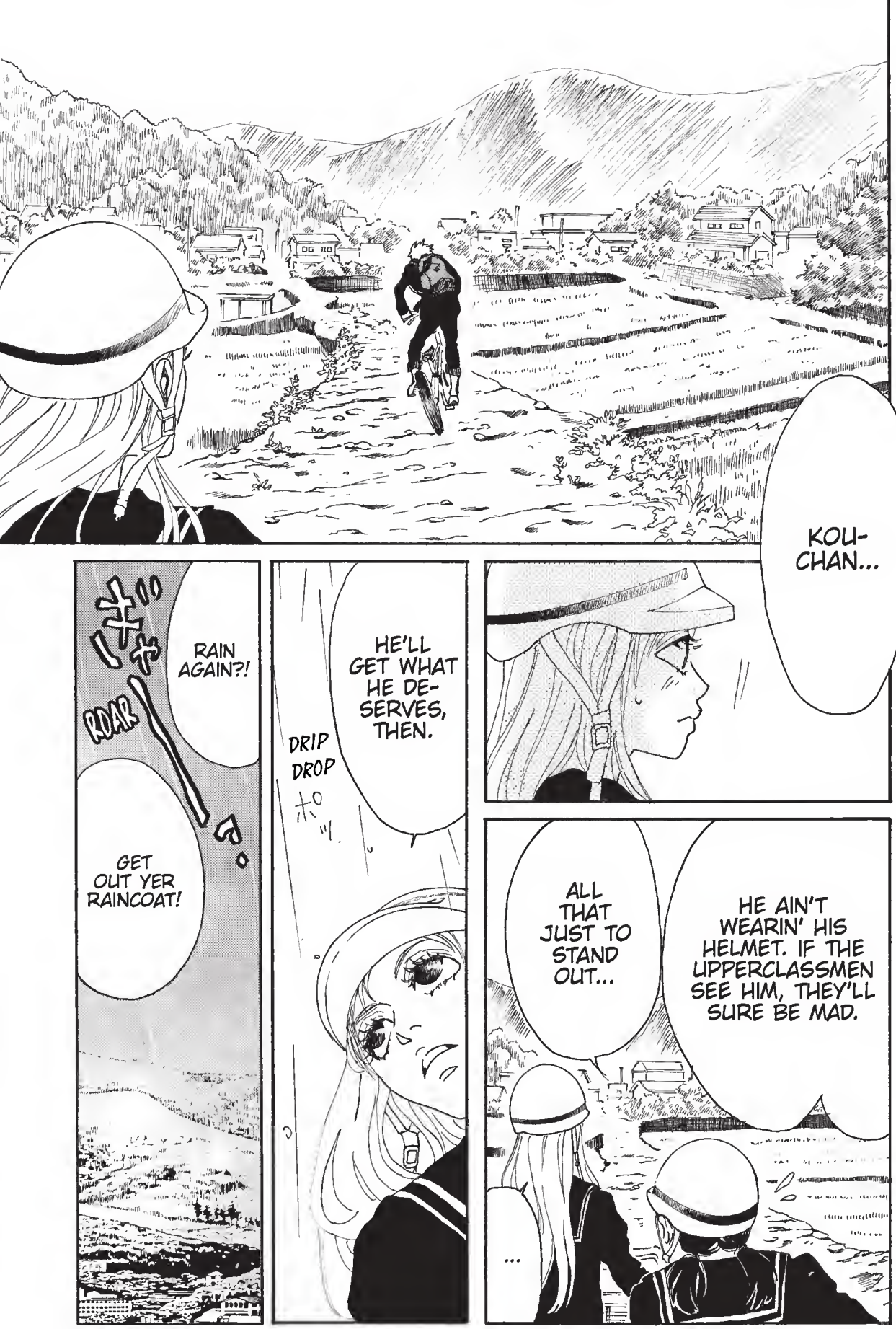

I WANT TO MAKE HIM...
...
...EVEN ANGRIER.
SNAP
パキッ。


JUST WHEN THE CHERRY TREES FINALLY BLOSSOMED...
第58回
浮雲町立
卒業式
WITH DEEP RESPECT...
*58TH ANNUAL UKIGUMO PRIMARY SCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONY
WHAT'RE Y'ALL CRYIN' FOR?! WE'RE GOIN' TO THE SAME MIDDLE SCHOOL, AIN'T WE?
AIN'T NOTHIN' GONNA CHANGE BUT OUR UNIFORMS!
...MY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DAYS AND THE PHOTOSHOOT BOTH CAME TO AN END.

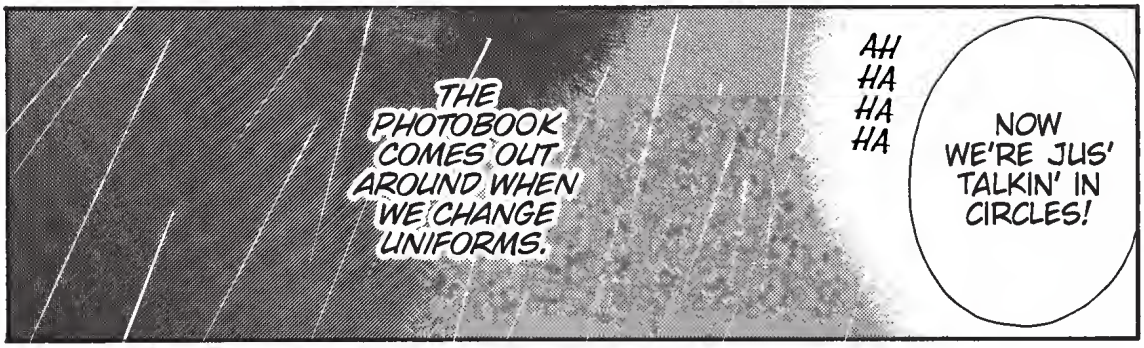

WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
HEY! NATSUME-CHAN!

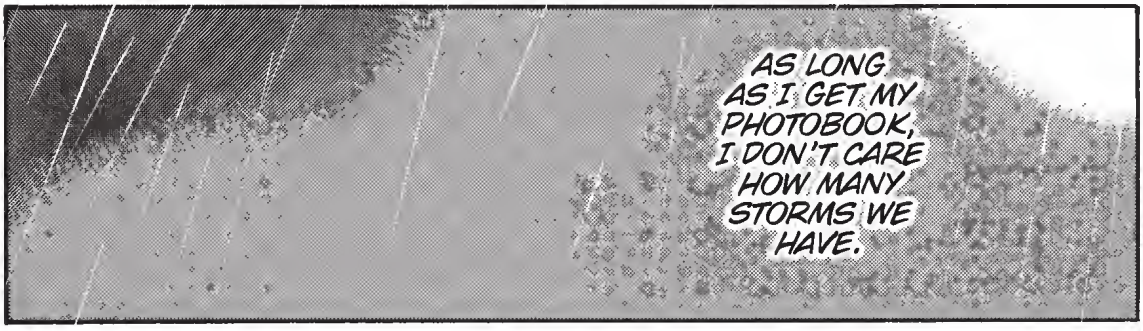
GOOD MORNING, KANA-CHAN!
HUFF
HUFF
MORN-IN'!
HUFF
OUTTA THE WAY!
HA HA HA!
WE'VE ONLY GOT A MONTH LEFT.
I KNOW!
I HOPE WE GET SUMMER UNIFORMS SOON. I'M SICK OF LONG SLEEVES!
IT'S GETTIN' HUMID OUT!

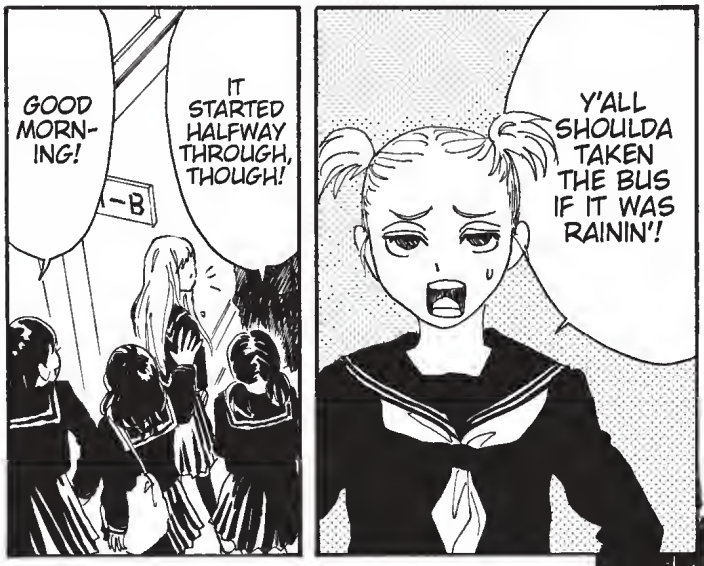
AH!
ZOOM
I-A


KOU-CHAN...
HE'LL GET WHAT HE DE-SERVES, THEN.
DRIP DROP
RAIN AGAIN?!
ROAR
GET OUT YER RAINCOAT!
ALL THAT JUST TO STAND OUT...
HE AIN'T WEARIN' HIS HELMET. IF THE UPPERCLASSMEN SEE HIM, THEY'LL SURE BE MAD.
...

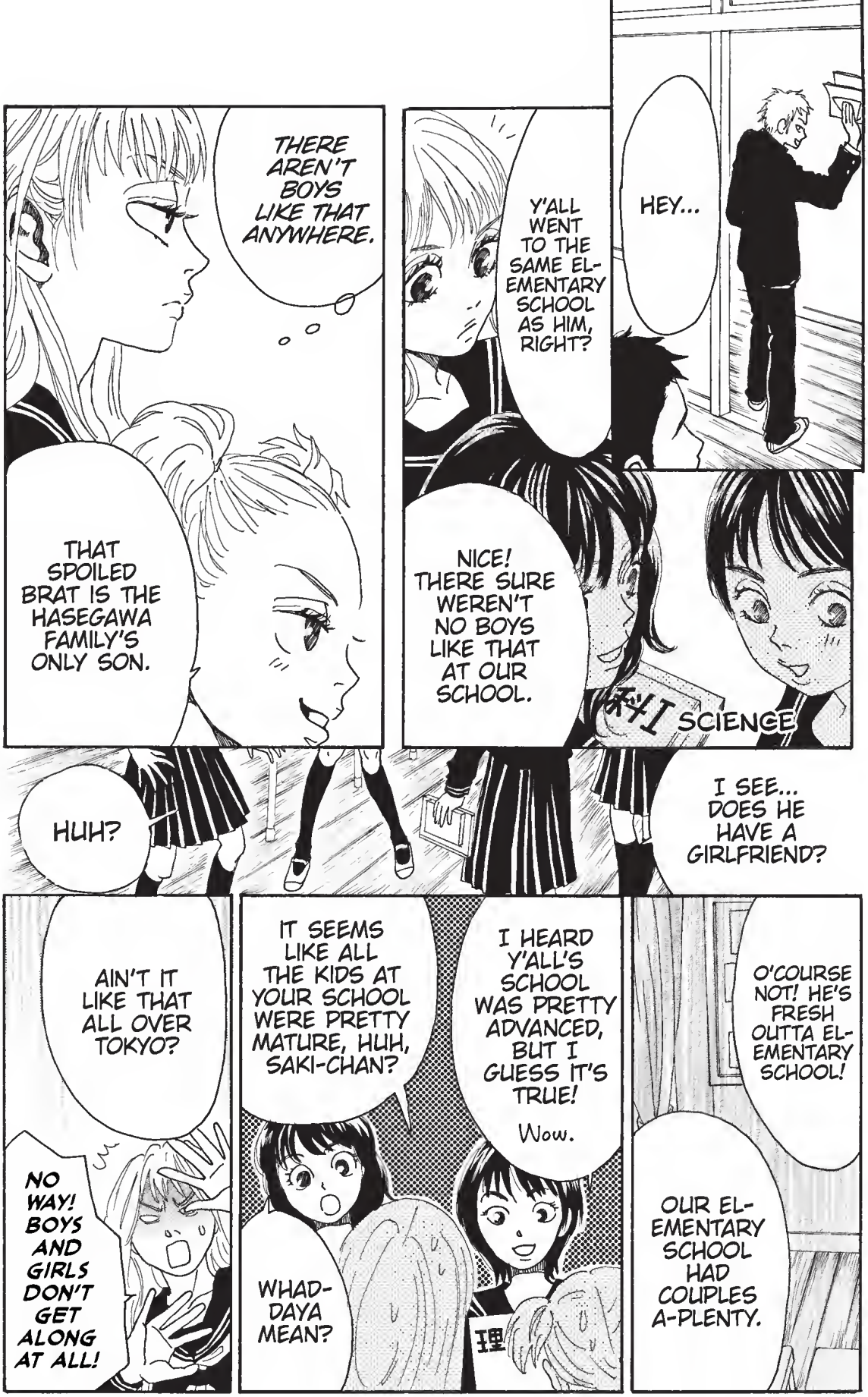
I THOUGHT THE SNOW'D NEVER STOP, AND NOW HERE WE ARE WITH UNENDIN' RAIN!
AAH... I HOPE WE CHANGE INTO SUMMER UNIFORMS SOON!


NOW WE'RE JUS' TALKIN' IN CIRCLES!
AH HA HA HA
THE PHOTOBOOK COMES OUT AROUND WHEN WE CHANGE UNIFORMS.

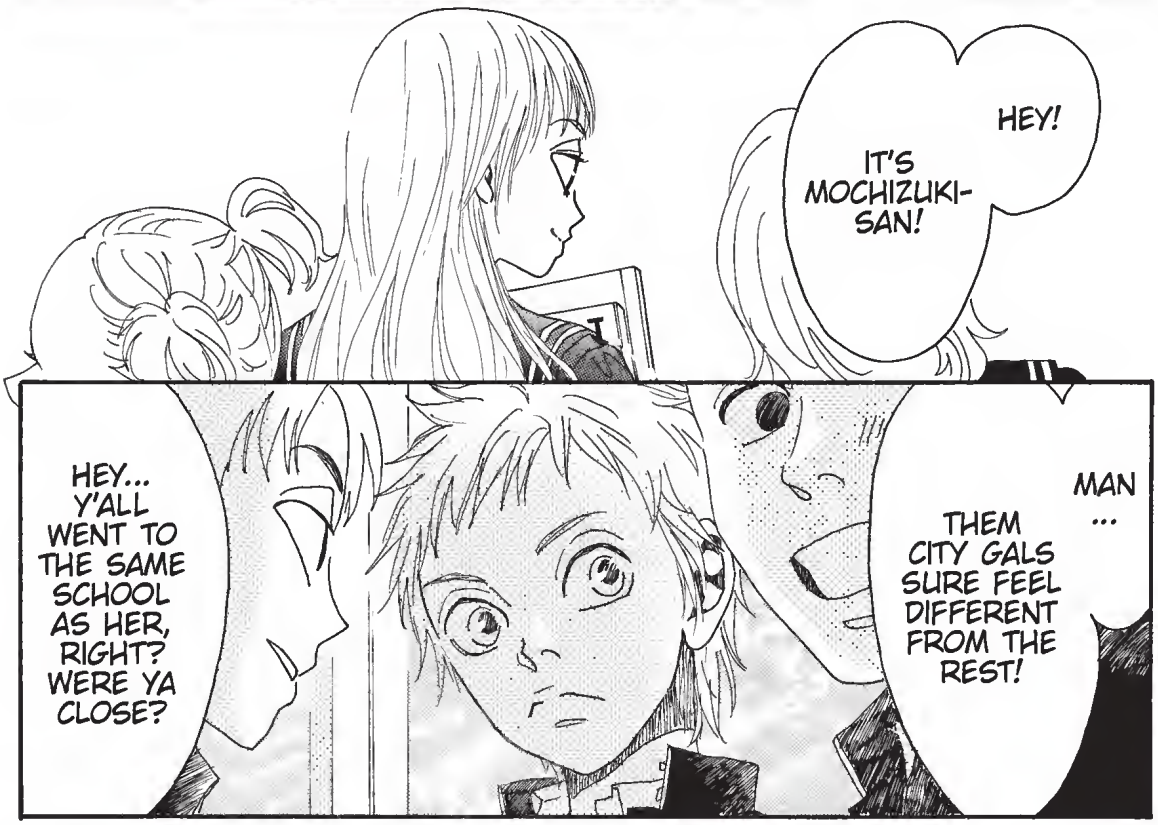

AS LONG AS I GET MY PHOTOBOOK, I DON'T CARE HOW MANY STORMS WE HAVE.

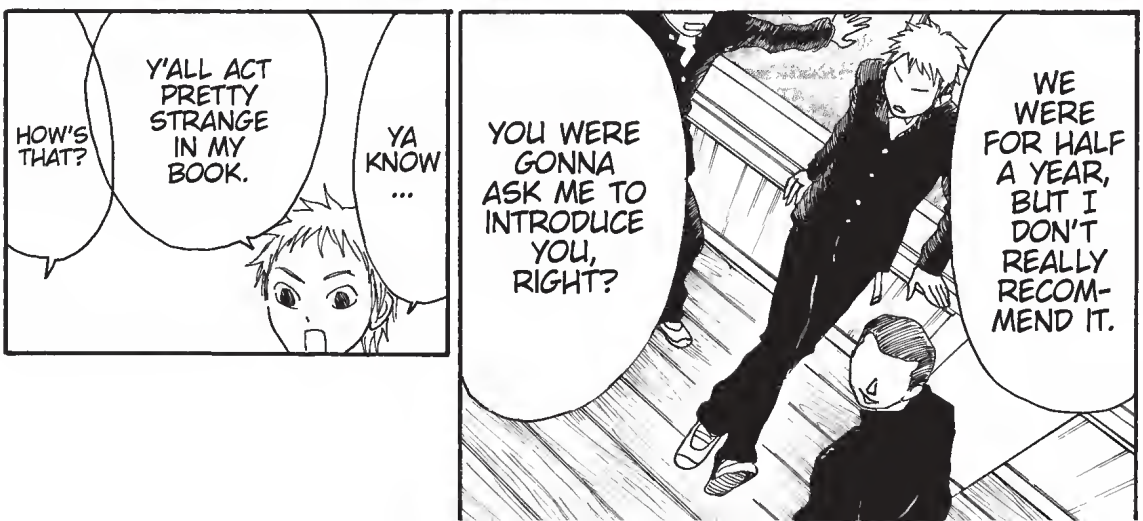

Y'ALL SHOULDA TAKEN THE BUS IF IT WAS RAININ'!
GOOD MORN-ING!
IT STARTED HALFWAY THROUGH, THOUGH!
A-B

OH!
GOOD MORNING.
NATSUME-CHAN! LET'S GET TO THE CLASSROOM.
...OR WERE WE SUPPOSED TO GO TO THE SCIENCE ROOM NEXT?
LATER, KANA-CHAN.
...
YEAH, LATER.
...
KANA-CHAN ALWAYS COMES TO OUR CLASS DURING BREAKS...
I GUESS SHE DOESN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS IN HER OWN CLASS.
I HOPE SHE'S OKAY...
KOU-CHAN IS IN THE SAME CLASS AS HER, THOUGH...
YO, OTOMO.
FORGET SOMETHING?
MY PROTRACTOR.
AND MY TEXTBOOKS.


HEY...
Y'ALL WENT TO THE SAME ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AS HIM, RIGHT?
NICE! THERE SURE WEREN'T NO BOYS LIKE THAT AT OUR SCHOOL.
I SEE... DOES HE HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?
O'COURSE NOT! HE'S FRESH OUTTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!
OUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HAD COUPLES A-PLENTY.
I HEARD Y'ALL'S SCHOOL WAS PRETTY ADVANCED, BUT I GUESS IT'S TRUE!
Wow.
IT SEEMS LIKE ALL THE KIDS AT YOUR SCHOOL WERE PRETTY MATURE, HUH, SAKI-CHAN?
WHAD-DAYA MEAN?
AIN'T IT LIKE THAT ALL OVER TOKYO?
NO WAY! BOYS AND GIRLS DON'T GET ALONG AT ALL!
THERE AREN'T BOYS LIKE THAT ANYWHERE.
THAT SPOILED BRAT IS THE HASEGAWA FAMILY'S ONLY SON.
HUH?
SCIENCE

EVERY DAY IS ANOTHER BATTLE!
THE BOYS ARE SO DENSE, YOU WISH THEY'D JUST DIE!
Seriously!
HA HA HA HA
OH? REALLY?


HEY!
IT'S MOCHIZUKI-SAN!
MAN ...
THEM CITY GALS SURE FEEL DIFFERENT FROM THE REST!
HEY... Y'ALL WENT TO THE SAME SCHOOL AS HER, RIGHT? WERE YA CLOSE?

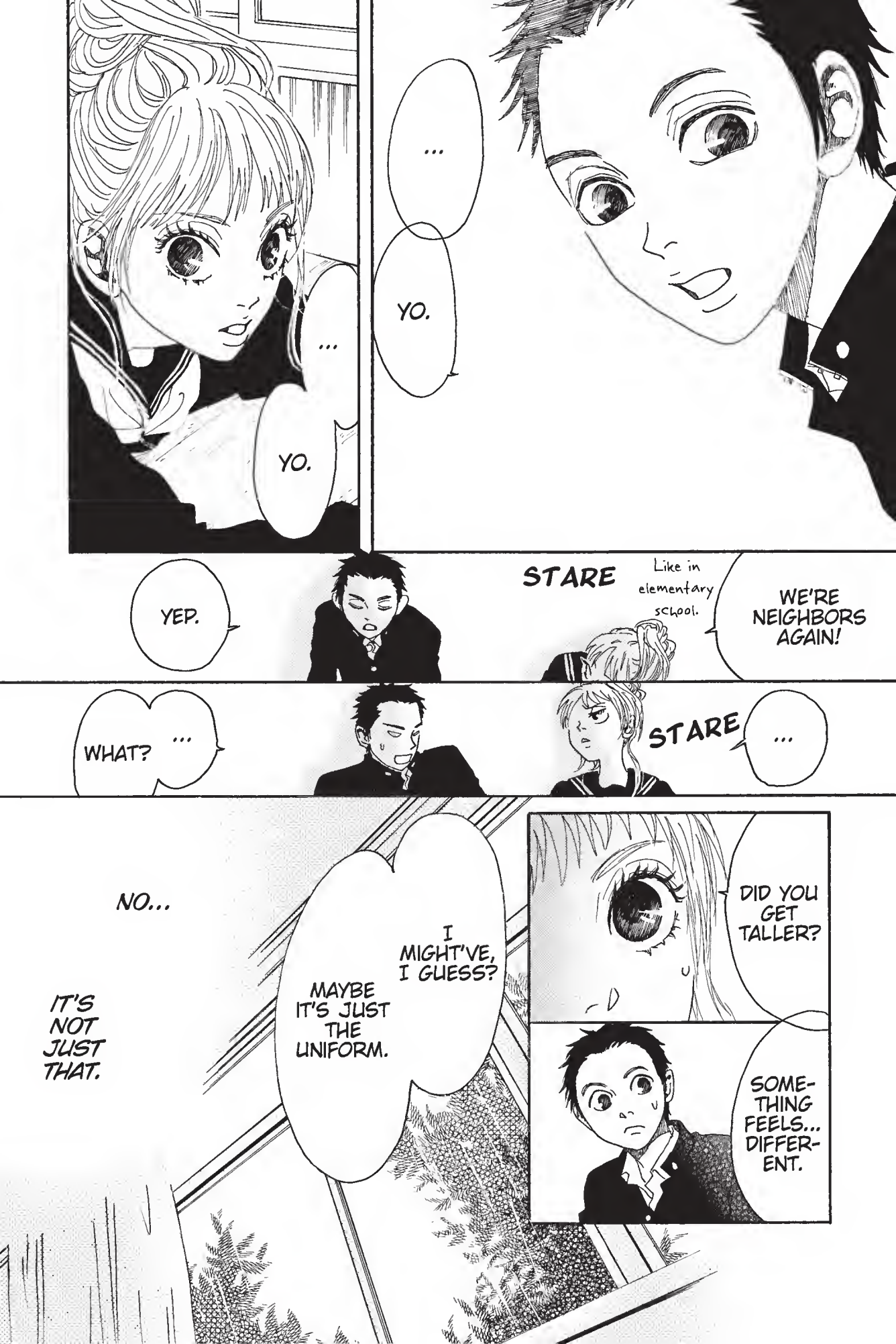

WE WERE FOR HALF A YEAR, BUT I DON'T REALLY RECOMMEND IT.
YOU WERE GONNA ASK ME TO INTRODUCE YOU, RIGHT?
YA KNOW ...
Y'ALL ACT PRETTY STRANGE IN MY BOOK.
HOW'S THAT?

DANG
DONG
WELL, THAT GIRL, SHE'S BEEN NOTICED BY A LOT OF FOLK, ESPECIALLY UPPERCLASS-MEN...
YEAH? I GUESS SHE WOULD.
DING
DONG
AN' SHE EVEN...
YOU GOIN' STEADY WITH ANYBODY?
I'M NOT SURE I'M READY FOR A RELATIONSHIP YET.
I CAN'T. SORRY.
I'M SINGLE RIGHT NOW, BUT...
...
MIDDLE SCHOOL IS IN-TENSE!
I GOT ASKED OUT!
By someone I don't even know!
WHY'D YOU TURN HIM DOWN ?!

You dummies!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO FOLLOW ME!
DON'T YOU GET IT? HE WAS THE STAR PLAYER ON THE SOCCER TEAM!
WHAT A WASTE!
THE SOCCER TEAM'S STAR PLAYER, HUH...
WELL, THAT SOUNDS IMPRESSIVE,
BUT I'M GOING TO BE THE STAR OF THE BASKETBALL TEAM!
SOMEDAY!
Still practicing ball handling, though...
ONE, TWO!
ONE, TWO!
AND BESIDES ...
cg silicon
Call
Doi
Manager
vodafone
OH!
I PASSED, RIGHT?
About the audition for that commercial ...
Natsume-chan?!
Wh—?

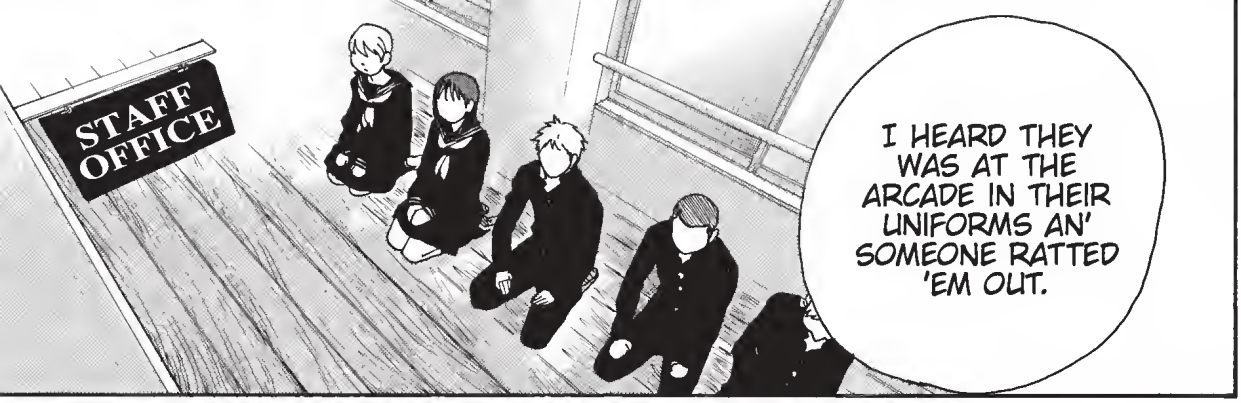
SURE,
THEY DID...
SLIDE
SHHHHH
The one where they dug up all those famous actresses?
We're talking about the RH one, right?
Um?
You knew it?
YES!
I KNEW IT!
IT'S JUST...
I WAS CERTAIN I'D MAKE IT.
DON'T YOU REMEMBER MY AUDITION?
MAYBE IT WAS BASELESS CONFIDENCE...
...
Natsume-chan.
You gave me goosebumps just now.
I really think...
...you'll turn out to be someone amazing.
SHHHH
IT SEEMS LIKE...
...NO MATTER HOW AMAZING I BECOME...

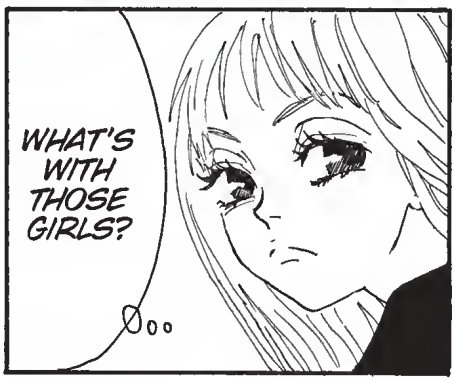
...STILL CAN'T REACH HIM.
MY HANDS...
100 SWAPS
SEAT CHANGE
EVERYONE, PLEASE PROMPTLY TAKE YOUR NEW SEATS.
ガタ
RATTLE
heh heh heh
YES! WINDOW SEAT!

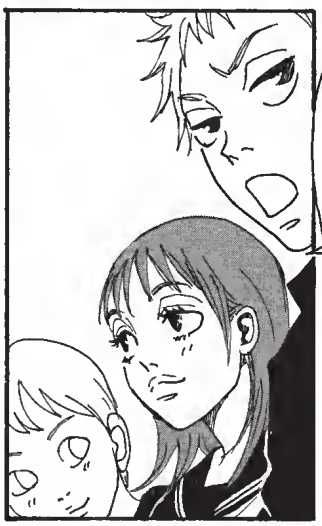

...
YO.
...
YO.
STARE
Like in elementary school.
WE'RE NEIGHBORS AGAIN!
YEP.
WHAT?
...
STARE
...
DID YOU GET TALLER?
SOME-THING FEELS... DIFFER-ENT.
I MIGHT'VE, I GUESS?
MAYBE IT'S JUST THE UNIFORM.
NO...
IT'S NOT JUST THAT.

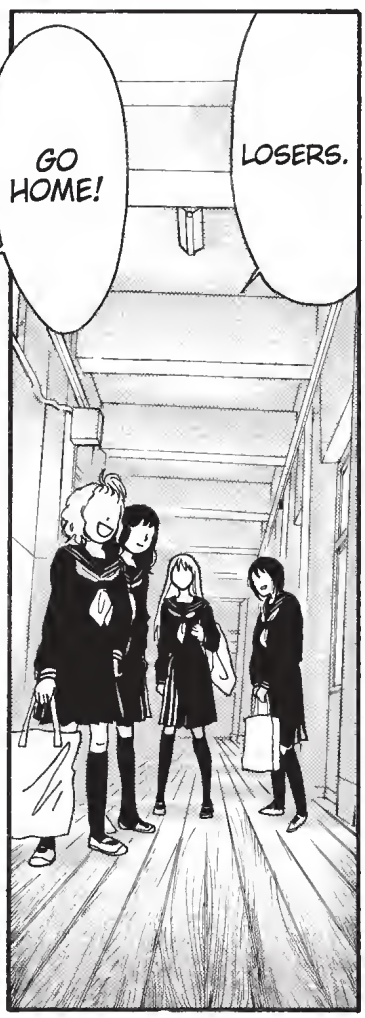
WE'RE BECOMING REAL MIDDLE SCHOOLERS.
I THOUGHT PIGTAILS LOOKED CHILDISH!
WHAT?!
HAYASE ?!
EACH OF US...
...IN OUR ILL-FITTING UNIFORMS...
...WERE CHANGING.
KYOOOH
...
-!

KOU-CHAN...
WHY?
WE'VE TALKED BEFORE. WHY CAN'T I TALK TO HIM NOW?
Could the following students please report to the office immediately:
Ahem!
...HE'S CHANGING A LOT, TOO.
...IN MANY WAYS...
From Year 1, Class A: Koichiro Hasegawa.
Mitsuo Iwashita. Keiji Terada.
Akina Shinjo. Suzuka Kunihiro.
HA HA HA
WHAT'D HE DO THIS TIME?
1-B
ど、、、
SLAM

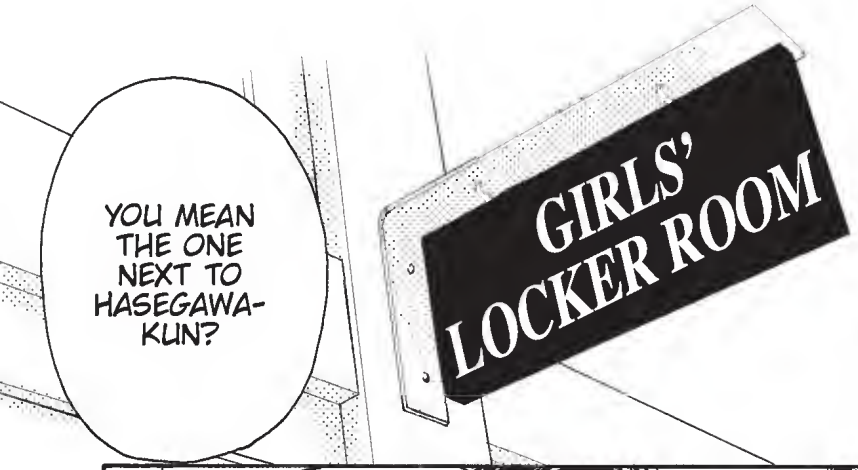


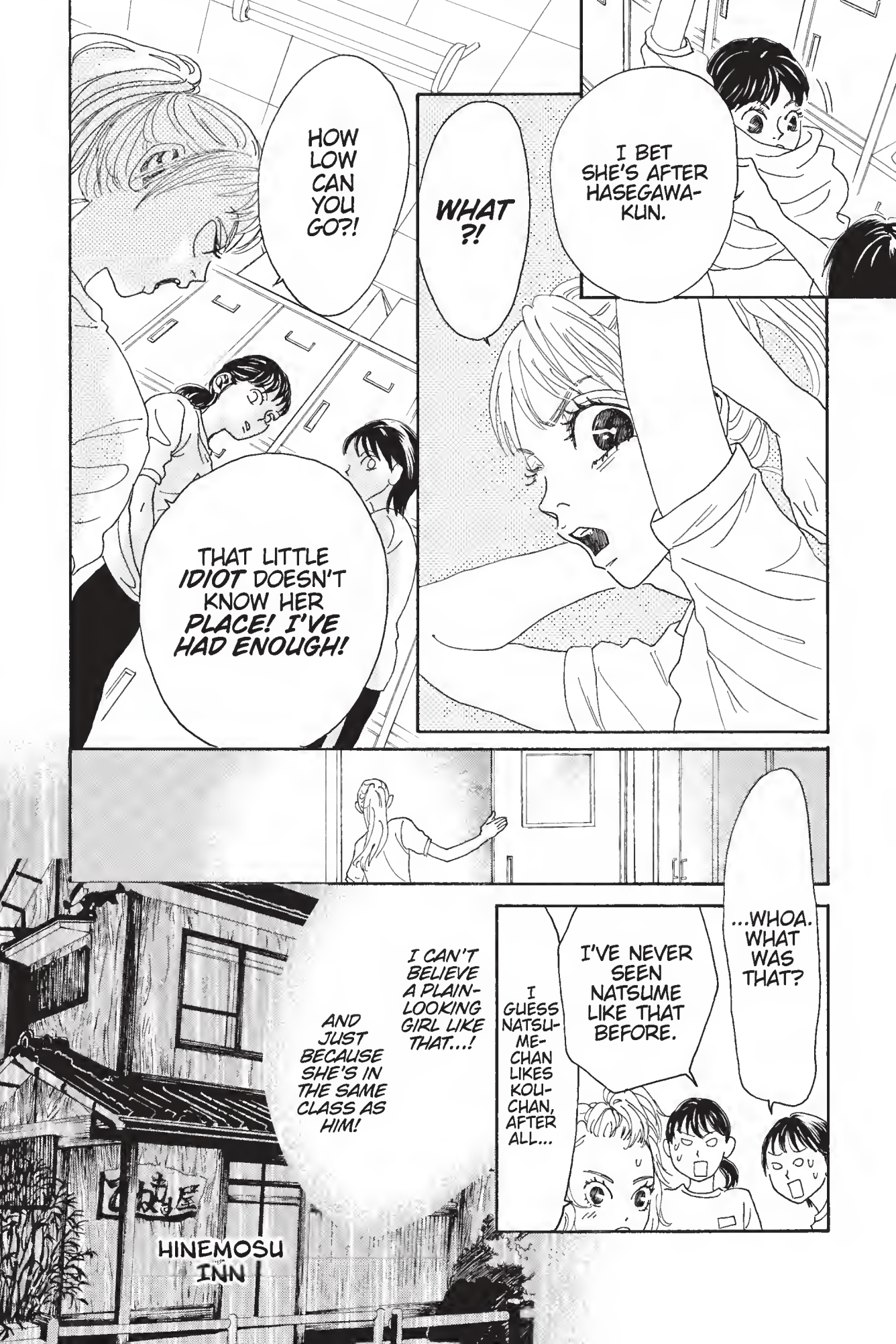




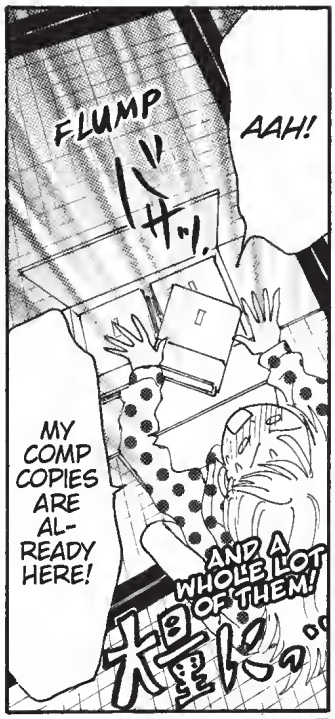


THEY HAVE SUCH SMUG EXPRESSIONS. HOW DUMB.




HOW LOW CAN YOU GO?!
THAT LITTLE IDIOT DOESN'T KNOW HER PLACE! I'VE HAD ENOUGH!
WHAT?!
I BET SHE'S AFTER HASEGAWA-KUN.
...WHOA. WHAT WAS THAT?
I'VE NEVER SEEN NATSUME LIKE THAT BEFORE.
I GUESS NATSU-ME-CHAN LIKES KOU-CHAN, AFTER ALL...
I CAN'T BELIEVE A PLAIN-LOOKING GIRL LIKE THAT...!
AND JUST BECAUSE SHE'S IN THE SAME CLASS AS HIM!
HINEMOSU INN

TEN MORE DAYS UNTIL THE PHOTO-BOOK'S OUT...
THEN I'LL SHOW HIM HOW AMAZING I CAN BE!
YOU CAN'T JUST CHANGE ON YOUR OWN LIKE THAT!
STOP CHANGING, DUMMY!
ピンポーン
DING DONG
SPECIAL DELIVERY FOR NATSUME MOCHIZUKI-SAN!


FLUMP
AAH!
MY COMP COPIES ARE AL-READY HERE!
AND A WHOLE LOT OF THEM!

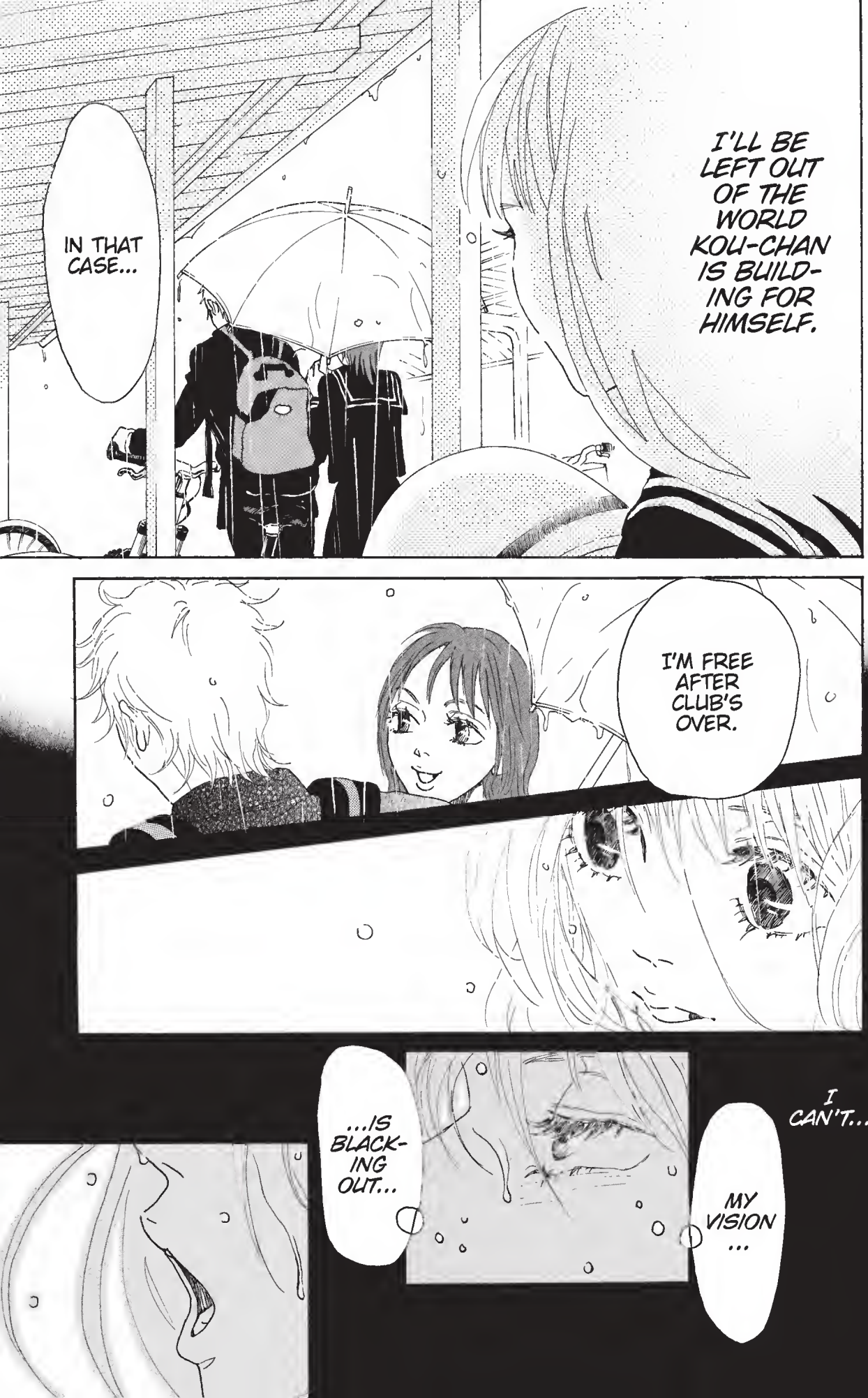
...

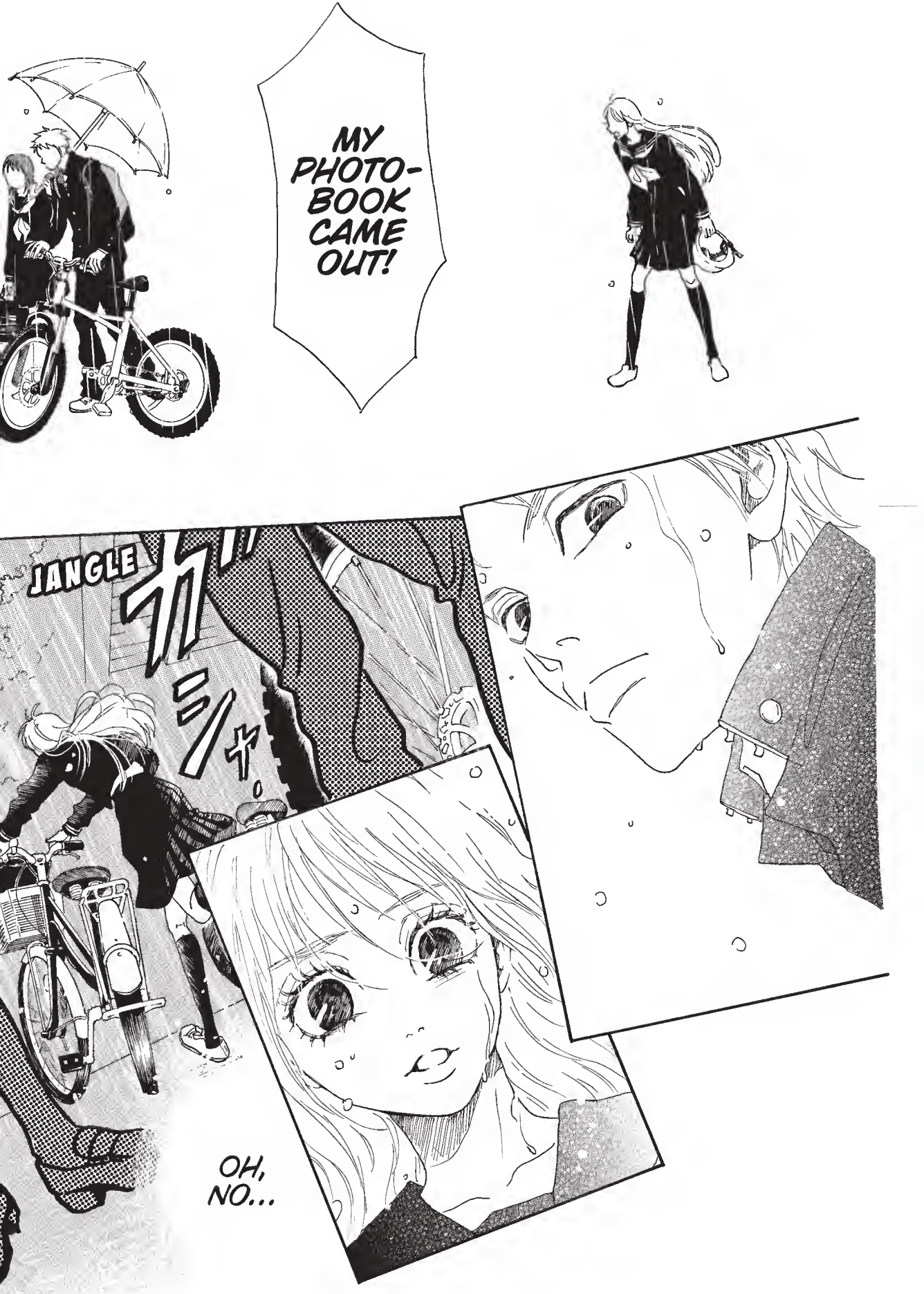
...

BAM!
Summer Footprints
SHOGO HIRONO
CHASES AFTER THE BEAT OF A YOUNG GIRL'S HEART

summer footprints
FLIP
FLIP
FLIP
FLIP
FLIP

THIS...
...WON'T DO IT.
...IS ME.
THE IDIOT WHO DOESN'T KNOW HER PLACE...
I THINK ...
AT THIS RATE...
I DOUBT THE COM-MERCIAL WILL WORK OUT, EITHER.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?


I'LL BE LEFT OUT OF THE WORLD KOU-CHAN IS BUILDING FOR HIMSELF.
IN THAT CASE...
I'M FREE AFTER CLUB'S OVER.
I CAN'T...
MY VISION ...
...IS BLACKING OUT...


MY PHOTO-BOOK CAME OUT!
JANGLE
カシャ
OH, NO...

...
WHAT?
HUH?
ZOOM
WHOOSH
WHOOSH

WHOOSH
キィィ
JANGLE
カ//
シャッ//
THUD
ドサッ

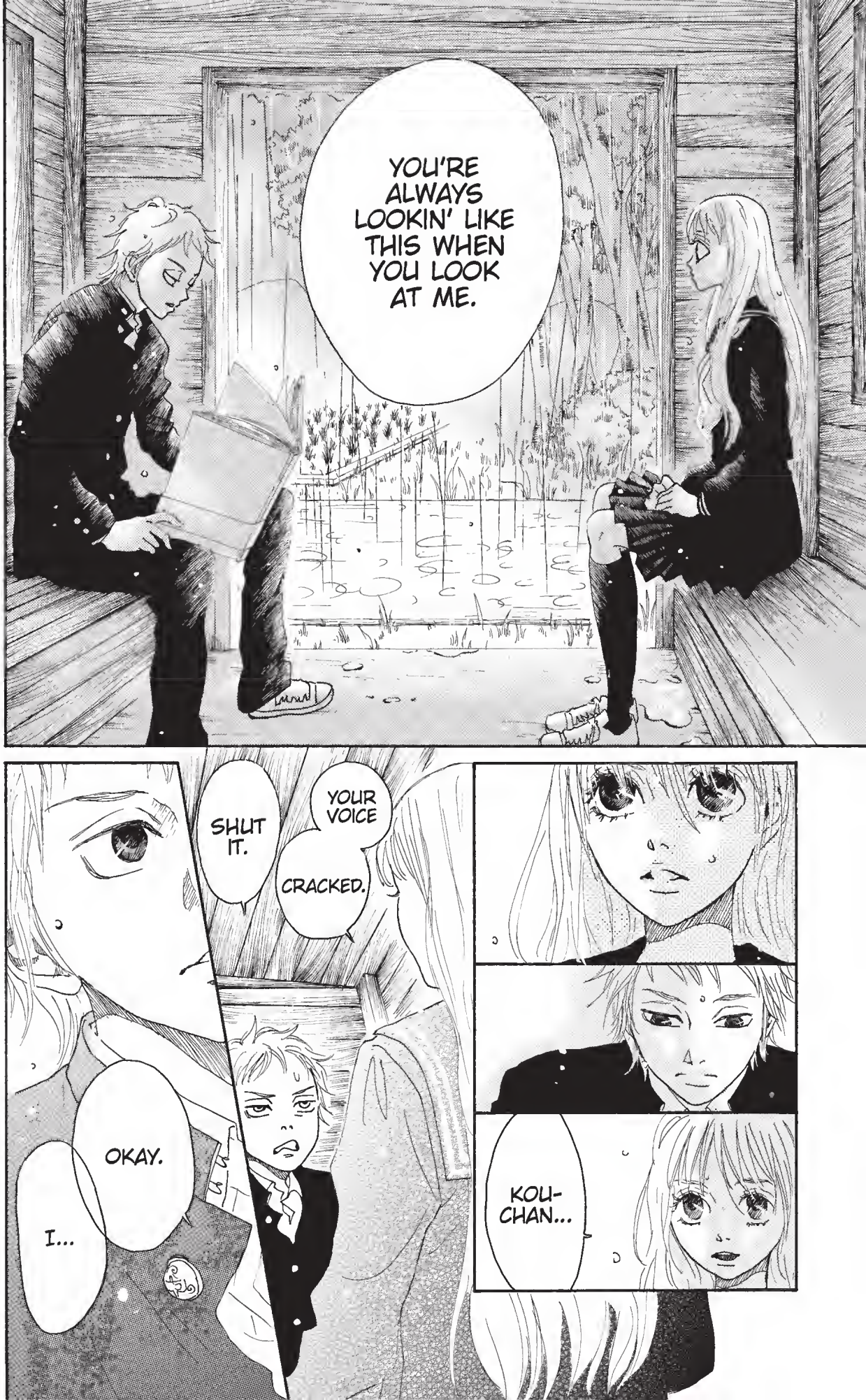
...YOU'RE THE WORST.
...

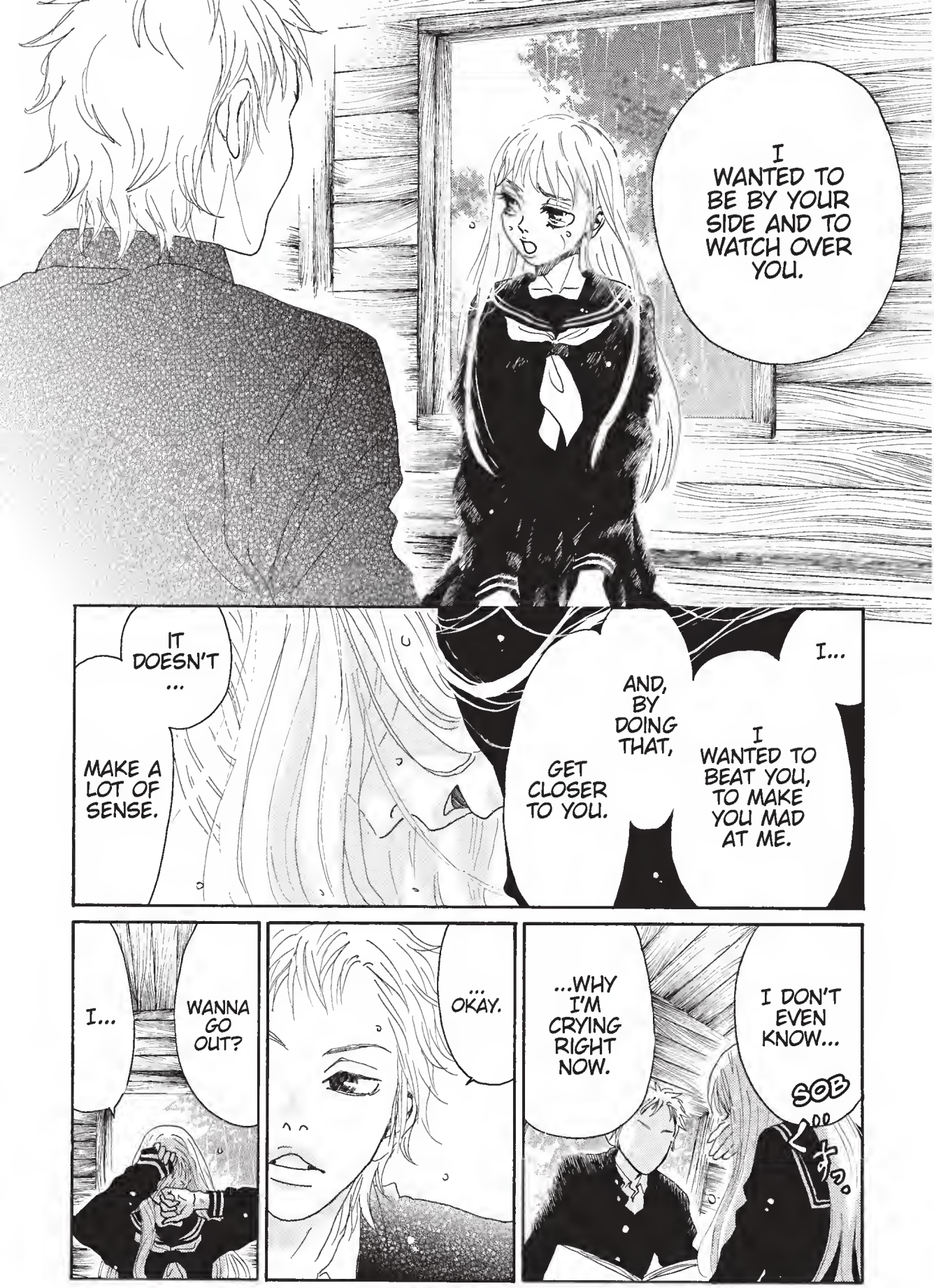
AH...
IT'S TRUE.
HE IS DIFFER-ENT.
SHOW ME.
...
...NO.
NEVER.
ARGH! DON'T GET IT WET, AT LEAST!
YOU HAVE IT WITH YOU, DON'T YOU?
AH!
YOUR BAG, RIGHT?

...
FLIP
I...
FLIP

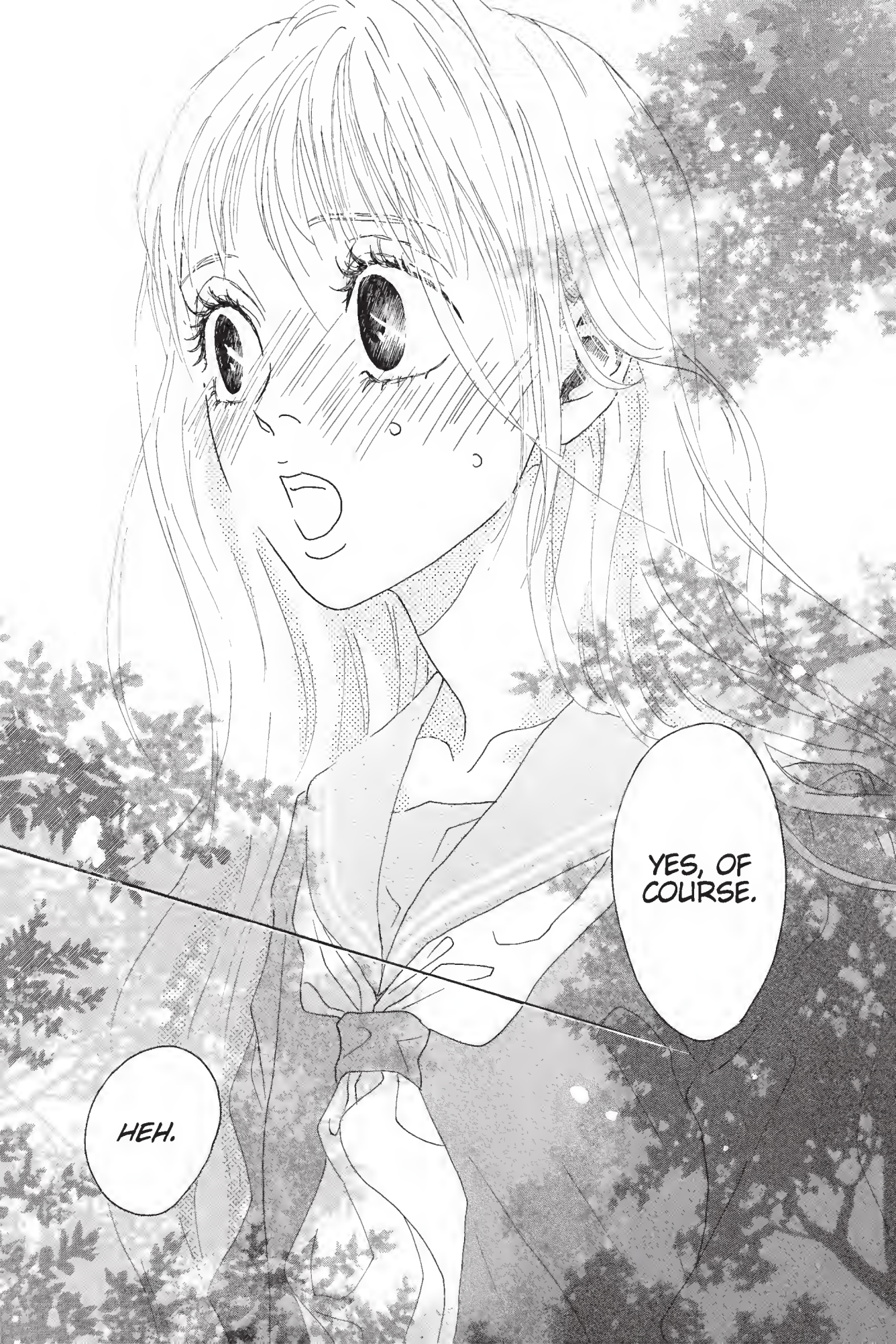
I WANTED TO BE ALL LIKE...
"SEE? I'M HOT STUFF, RIGHT?"
SUMMER
I WANTED TO RUB IT IN YOUR FACE.
BUT THEN...
HIRONO-SAN...
...WAS JUST TOO GOOD.
IT'S LIKE THESE PICTURES AREN'T EVEN OF ME.

SOME-
HOW...
...THANKS
TO HIS
SKILL...
...JUST
BY TAKING
PICTURES,
HE COULD
DO THIS.
NO, IT'S
YOU ALL
RIGHT.


YOU'RE ALWAYS LOOKIN' LIKE THIS WHEN YOU LOOK AT ME.
SHUT IT.
YOUR VOICE CRACKED.
KOU-CHAN...
OKAY.
I...


I WANTED TO BE BY YOUR SIDE AND TO WATCH OVER YOU.
I...
I WANTED TO BEAT YOU, TO MAKE YOU MAD AT ME.
AND, BY DOING THAT,
GET CLOSER TO YOU.
IT DOESN'T ...
MAKE A LOT OF SENSE.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW...
SOB
...WHY I'M CRYING RIGHT NOW.
...OKAY.
I...
WANNA GO OUT?

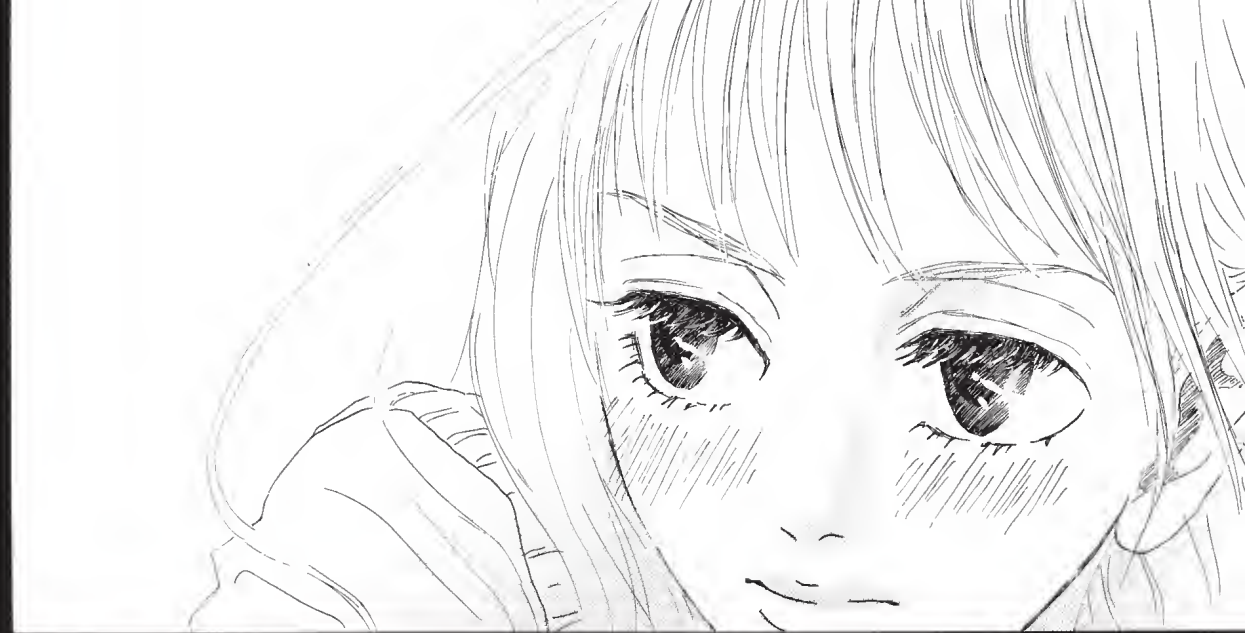
I ASKED IF YOU WANNA GO OUT.
WHAT ?!
...
THAT'S THAT, THEN.
SHHHH


YES, OF COURSE.
HEH.

WHY SO FORMAL?
HA HA HA.
MY WORLD CHANGED THAT DAY.

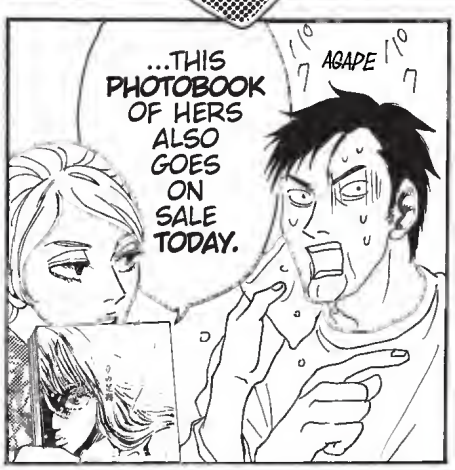
Drowning Love

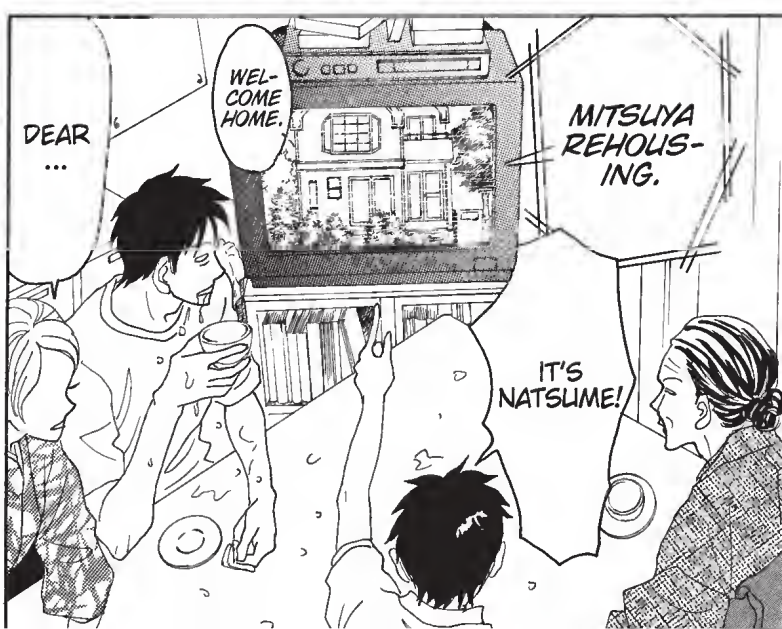
I WONDER WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN MY NEW CITY.
MY NAME IS NATSUME MOCHIZUKI.
I CAME FROM TOKYO.
NATSUME MOCHIZUKI
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF FRIENDS I'LL MAKE.
HERE.
I WONDER...



...COULD BLOSSOM THERE, TOO.

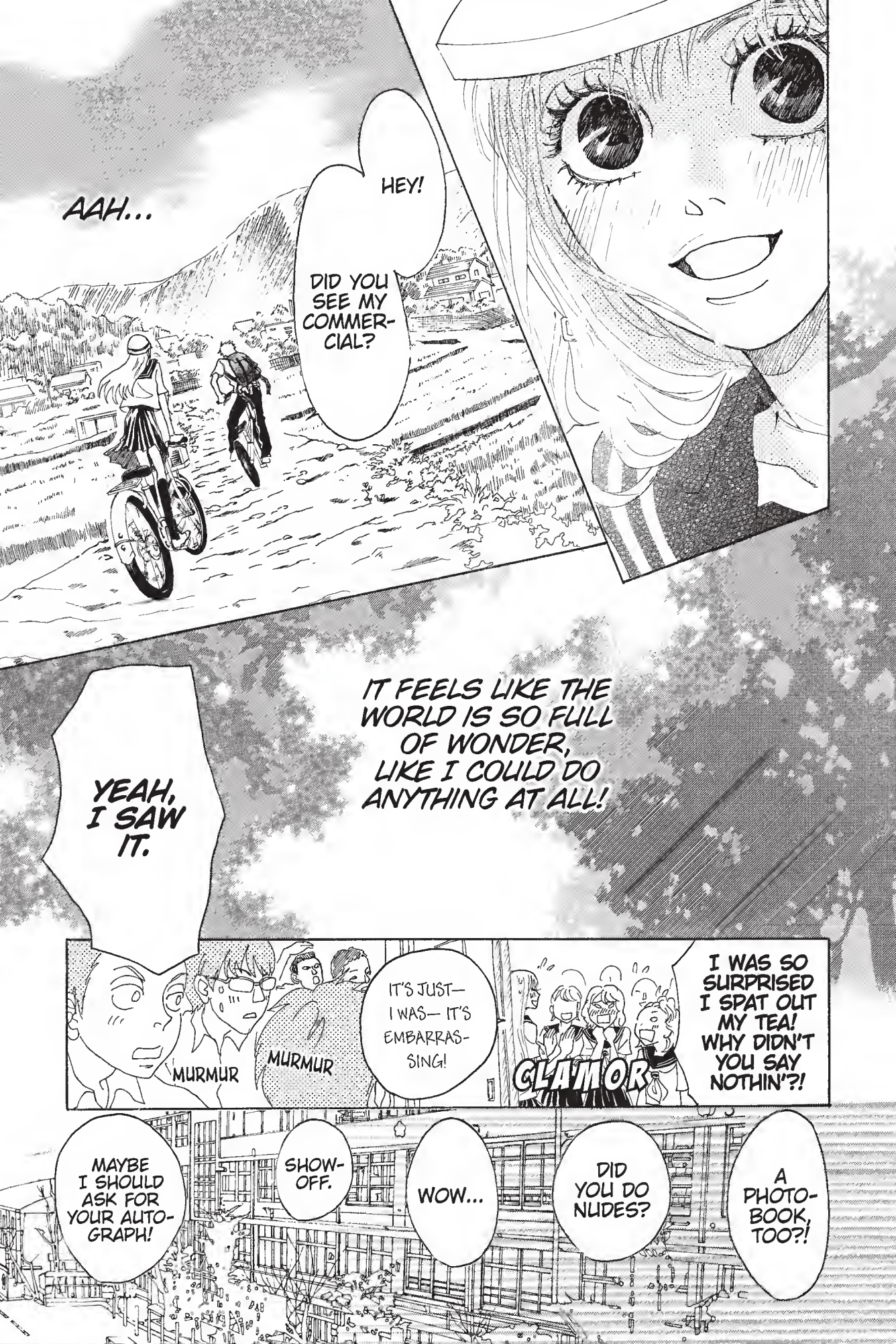
...IF LOVE...

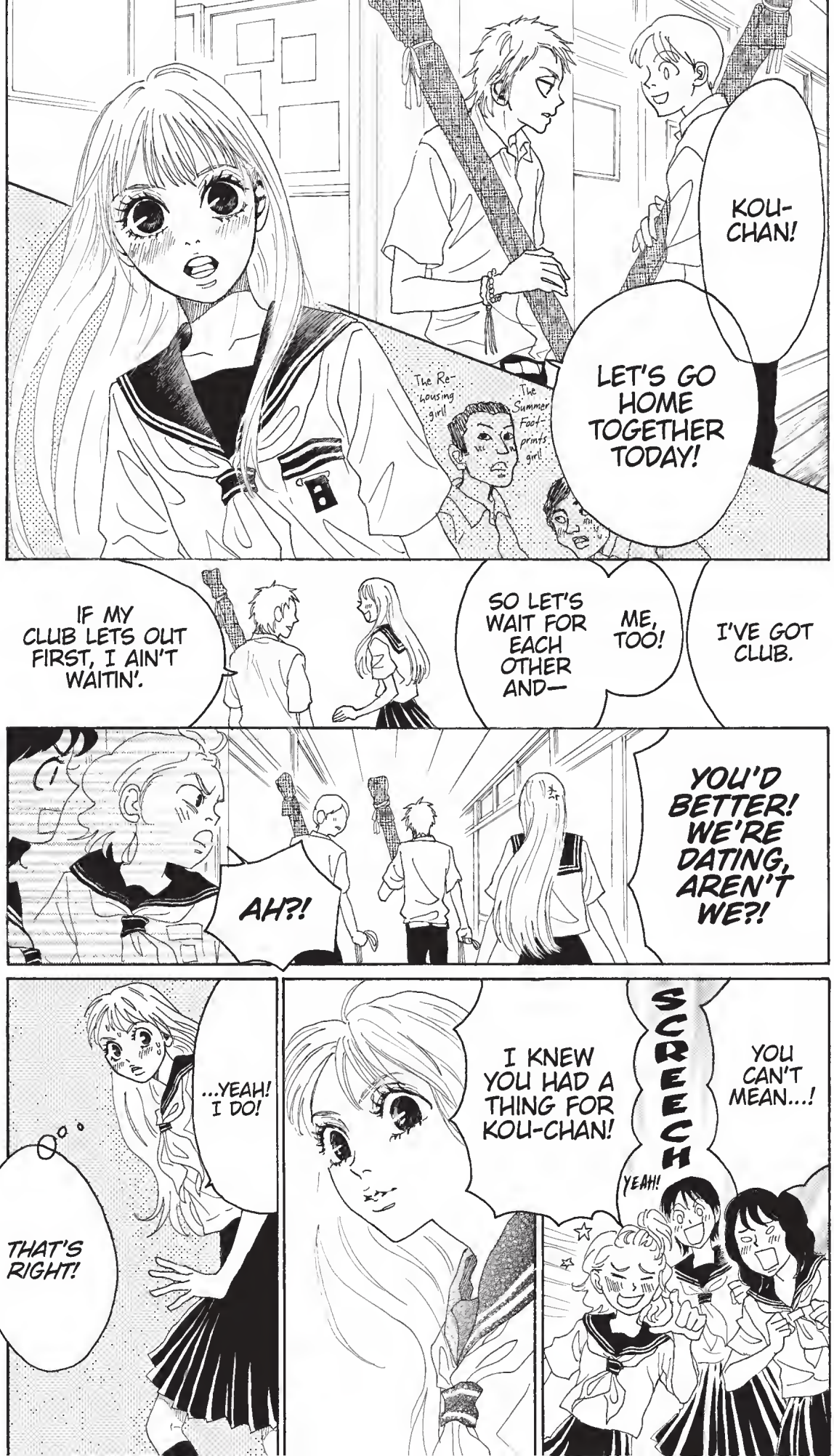


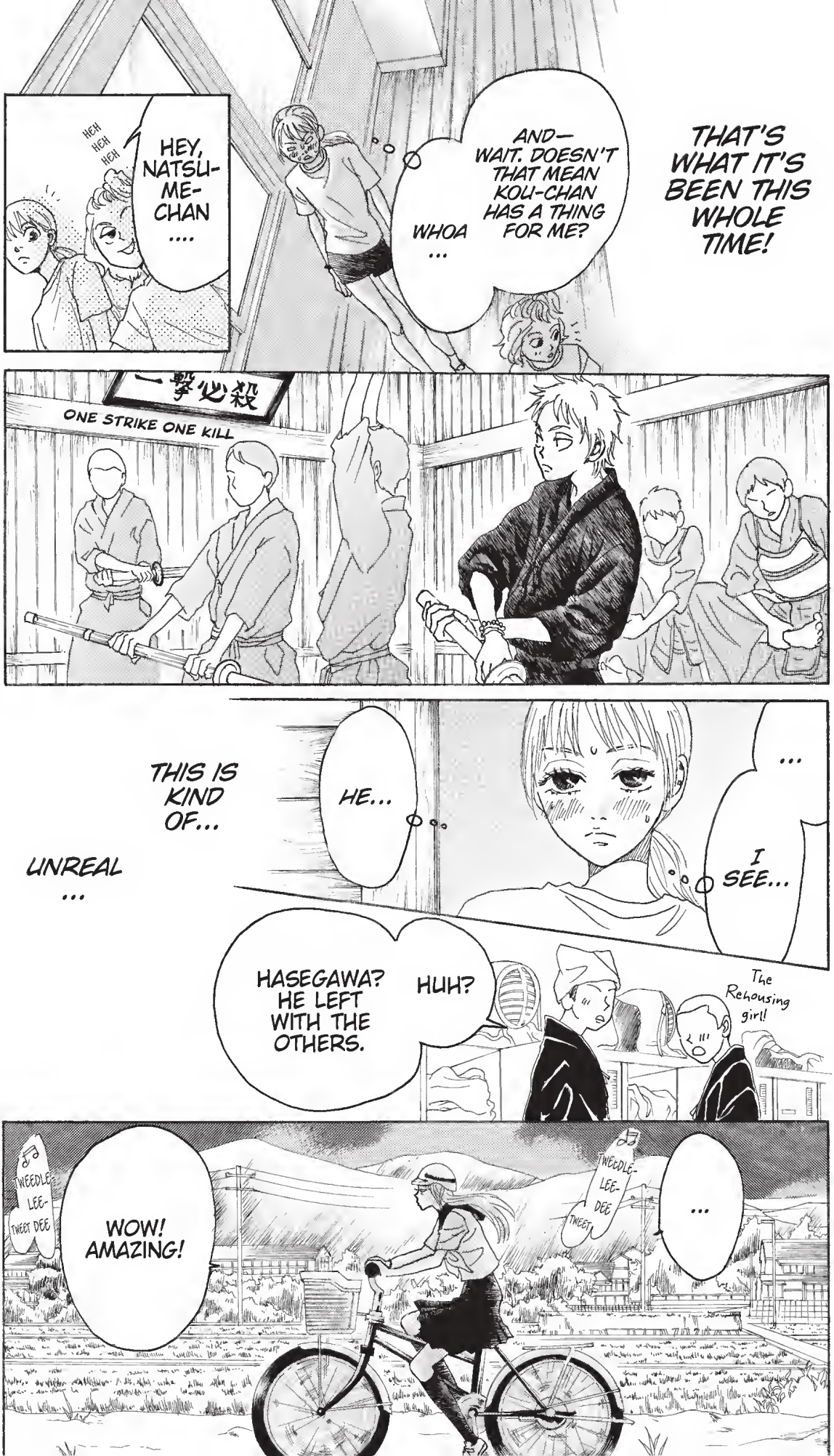


8
This Shining World
NATSUME—!
SHE'S ALREADY LEFT FOR SCHOOL.
TWEEDLE-LEE-DEE
TWEET
TWEEDLE-LEE-DEE
TWEET

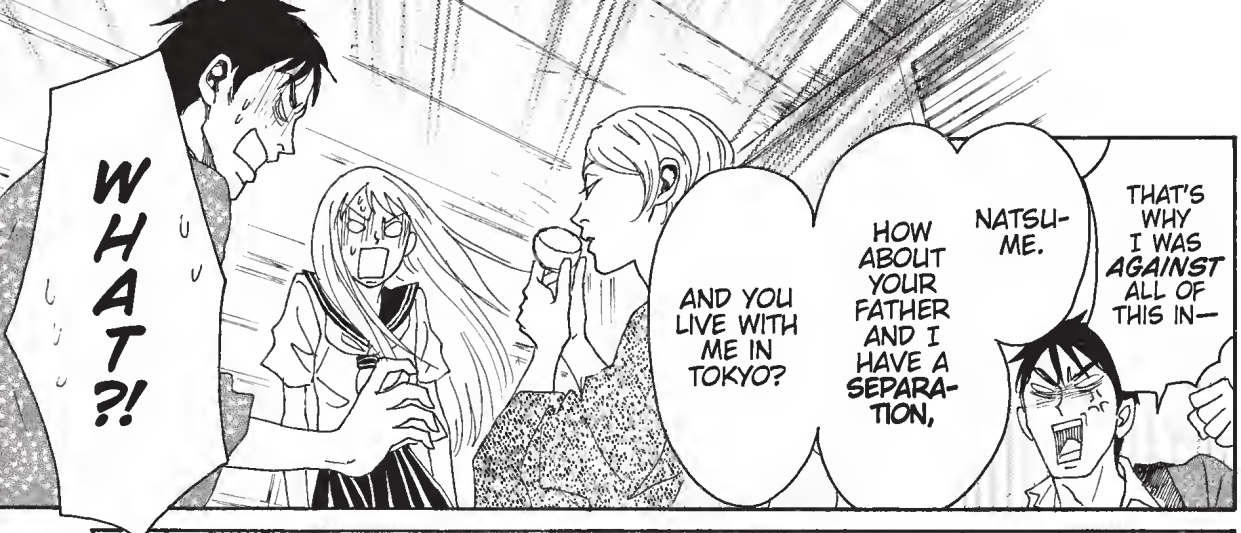
HEY, CUT IT OUT!
TWEEDLE-LEE-DEE TWEET
YOU'RE GETTING US ALL EXCITED, TOO!
HUH?
HUH?
NOW THAT'S THE FACE OF A YOUNG MAIDEN IN LOVE! CARE TO SHARE WHAT HAPPENED?
TWEEDLE-LEE-DEE
...
TWEE-
YOUR WHISTLING SUCKS.

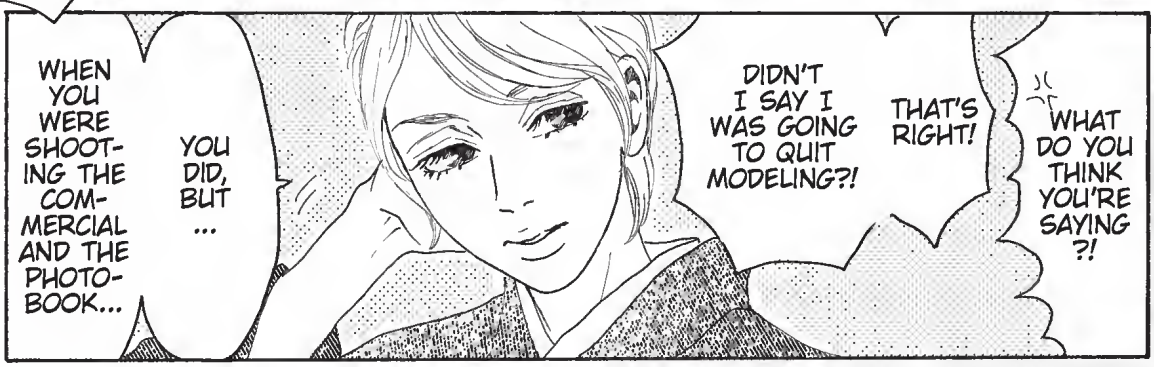

AAH...
HEY!
DID YOU SEE MY COMMER-CIAL?
IT FEELS LIKE THE WORLD IS SO FULL OF WONDER, LIKE I COULD DO ANYTHING AT ALL!
YEAH, I SAW IT.
MURMUR
MURMUR
IT'S JUST— I WAS— IT'S EMBARRAS-SING!
GLAMOR
I WAS SO SURPRISED I SPAT OUT MY TEA! WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY NOTHIN'?!
MAYBE I SHOULD ASK FOR YOUR AUTO-GRAPH!
SHOW-OFF.
WOW...
DID YOU DO NUDES?
A PHOTO-BOOK, TOO?!

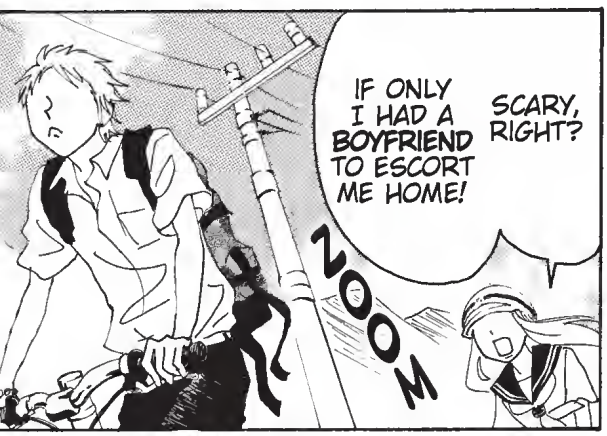

KOU-CHAN!
LET'S GO HOME TOGETHER TODAY!
The Re-housing girl
The Summer Foot-prints girl
I'VE GOT CLUB.
ME, TOO!
SO LET'S WAIT FOR EACH OTHER AND—
IF MY CLUB LETS OUT FIRST, I AIN'T WAITIN'.
YOU'D BETTER! WE'RE DATING, AREN'T WE?!
AH?!
YOU CAN'T MEAN...!
SCREECH
YEAH!
I KNEW YOU HAD A THING FOR KOU-CHAN!
...YEAH! I DO!
THAT'S RIGHT!


HEH HEH HEH
HEY, NATSU-ME-CHAN ....
WHOA ...
AND— WAIT. DOESN'T THAT MEAN KOU-CHAN HAS A THING FOR ME?
THAT'S WHAT IT'S BEEN THIS WHOLE TIME!
一撃必殺
ONE STRIKE ONE KILL
THIS IS KIND OF...
UNREAL ...
HE...
...
I SEE...
HASEGAWA? HE LEFT WITH THE OTHERS.
HUH?
The Rehousing girl!
TWEEDLE-LEE-TWEET DEE
WOW! AMAZING!
TWEEDLE-LEE-DEE TWEET
...

...HAS BEEN THROB-BING.
MY HEART ...
EVER SINCE HE ASKED ME OUT ...
TWEET
TWEEDLE-LEE-DEE
HUH?
SNAP
SNAP
SNAP
AAH!
YOU WORMS! GET OUT! YOU'RE BAD FOR BUSINESS!
UCHIGUMO HOT SPRINGS
SNAP
SNAP
SNAP
IT'S NATSU-ME-CHAN!
IN THE FLESH!
HUH?
WHAT?
MAKES ME SICK!
IT SEEMS ONE OF THE WORKERS HERE WANTED TO BRAG AND LEAKED THE INFO.
...
SEEMS LIKE THEY FOUND OUT WHO YOU ARE AND WHERE YOU LIVE ON THE INTERNET.
HINEMOSU-INN





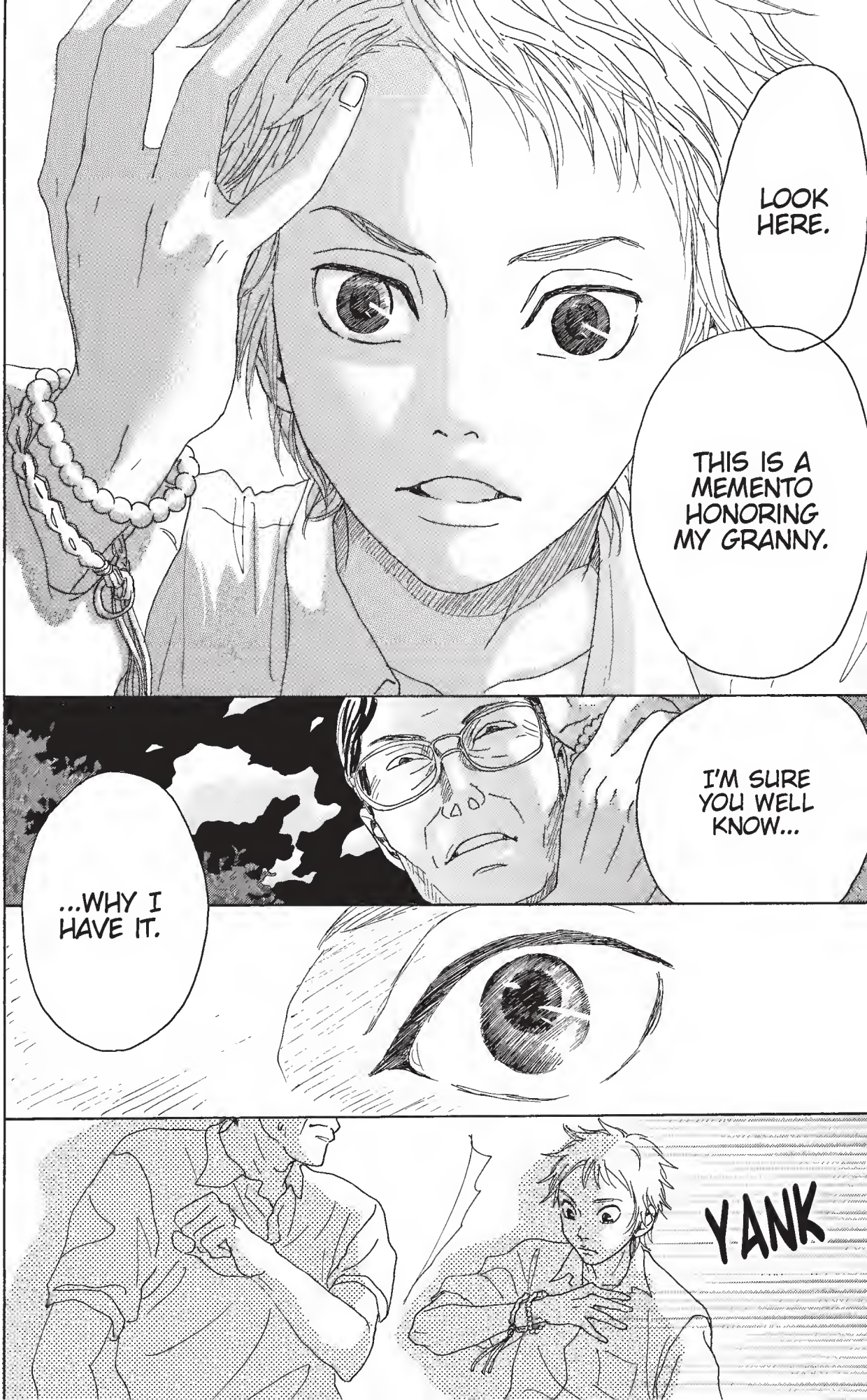


WELL...

THAT'S BECAUSE....

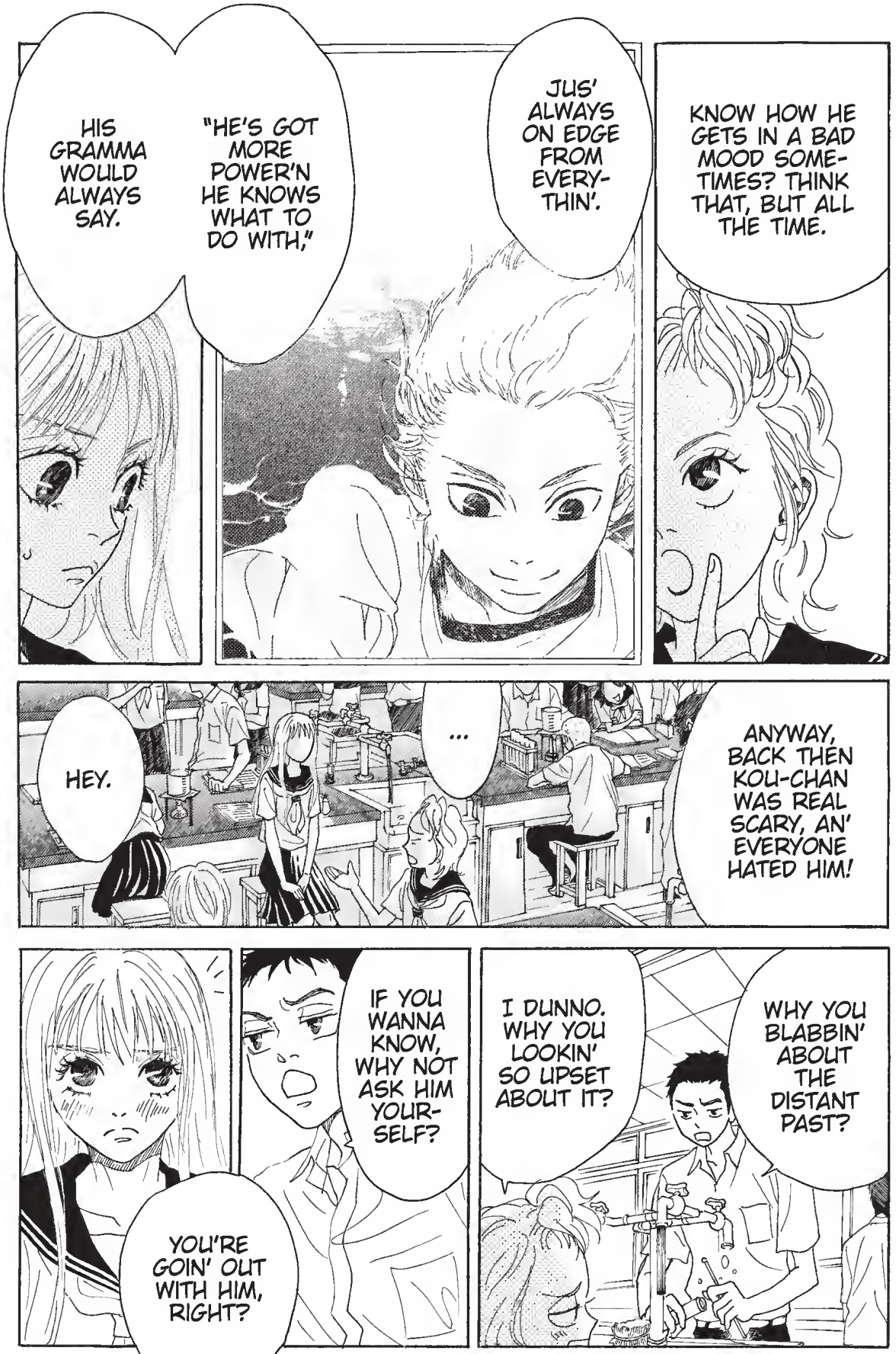
...I GUESS I WAS RIGHT.
BOTH THE PHOTO-BOOK AND THE COMMER-CIAL...
KOU-CHAN DOESN'T APPROVE OF THEM.
HM?
LET ME SAY ONE THING.
JANGLE
I WANT TO LIVE MY LIFE HERE TO THE FULLEST.
AND THAT MEANS...
...NO MORE WORKING. JUST SCHOOL.
"NO MORE"? THAT'S IT?
SO WALK ME HOME.
ACT LIKE WE'RE DATING FOR ONCE.
LET ME HAVE MY NORMAL LIFE!
...

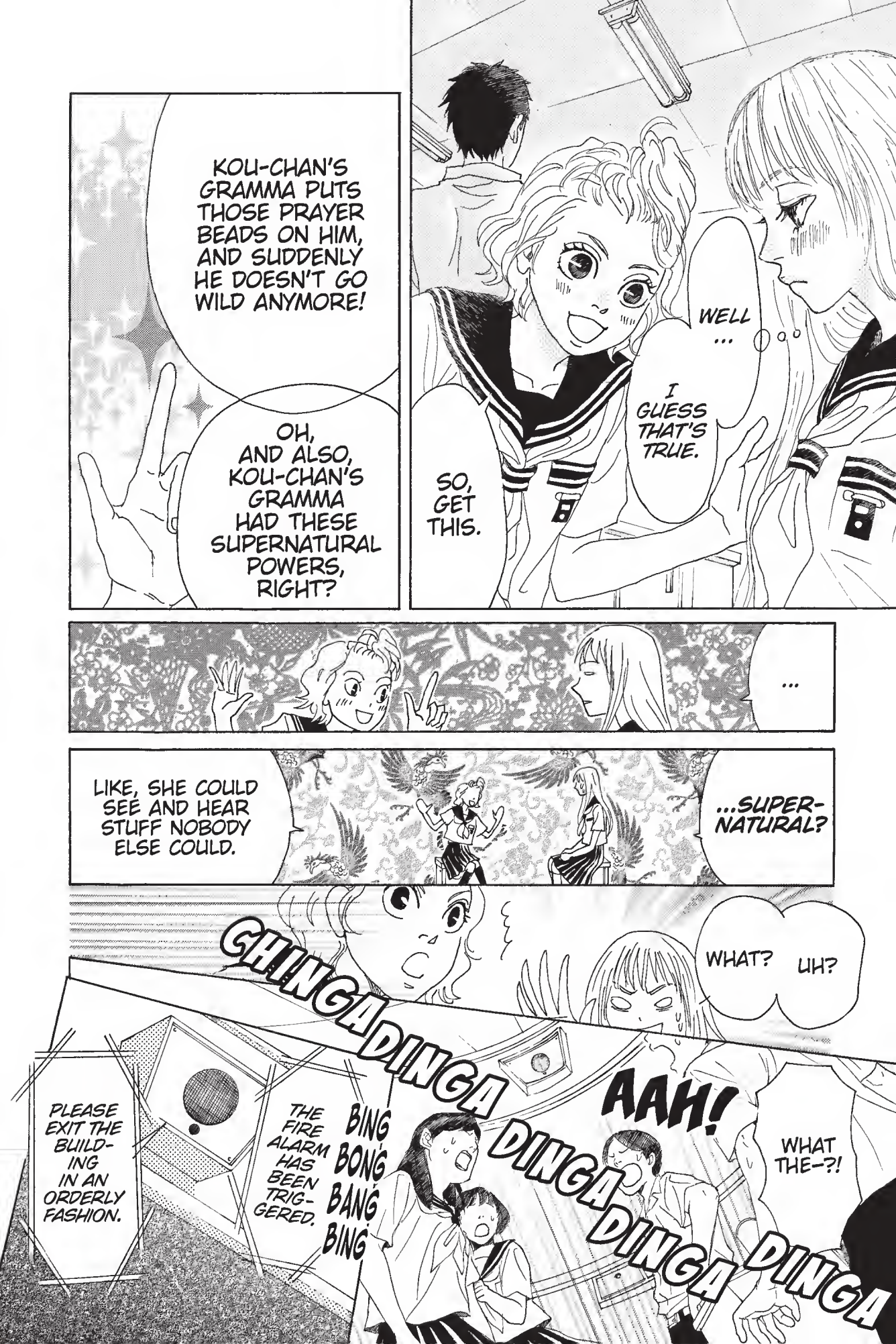
LOOKS LIKE THE PROBLEM CHILDREN HAVE ARRIVED.
OH.
ONLY BECAUSE I FOLLOWED YOU!
THAT'S SOMETHIN'.
Hey.
WE CAME TO SCHOOL TOGETHER, DIDN'T WE?
UNIFORM INSPECTION
...HM.
YOURS, TOO!
RATTLE
WA HA HA HA!
What?!
I'M CONFISCATING YOUR BRACELET!
YOU CAN HAVE IT BACK AFTER GRADUATION!
OW!
I'M EVEN WEARING IT LONGER THAN USUAL!
TIE UP YOUR HAIR!
YOUR SKIRT SHOULD BE KNEE-LENGTH!
WHAP


LOOK HERE.
THIS IS A MEMENTO HONORING MY GRANNY.
I'M SURE YOU WELL KNOW...
...WHY I HAVE IT.
YANK

SO I CAN'T LAY A FINGER ON IT?
FINE.
IN RETURN ...
YOU'D BETTER BE ON YOUR BEST BEHA-VIOR.
JUST WAIT AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GET IN TROUBLE!
HASEGAWA-SAN IS AN EXCEPTION!
NO HAIR COLOR-ING!
WH—
...
WHAT WAS THAT?
DID HE JUST—
HE DID PUNISH KOU-CHAN! HE SAID HE WAS AN EXCEPTION IN FRONT OF EVERYONE!

HE MADE A SHOW LIKE HE WAS GIVING IN, ONLY TO RUB HIS "FAVOR" INTO EVERY-ONE'S FACES!
HMPH.
AN EXCEP-TION, HUH?
KOU-CHAN'S PRAYER BEADS?
理科室
SCIENCE ROOM
WELL... WHEN HE WAS SMALL, HE WAS PRETTY WILD.
SOUNDS LIKE KOU-CHAN, YEAH.
LET'S GO CRAZY!
HERCULES
I'M GUESSIN' IT'S A LOT WORSE THAN WHATEVER YOU'RE IMAGININ'.
HE ALMOST KILLED A CLASSMATE AN' GOT 'IMSELF EXPELLED FROM KINDER-GARTEN!
...HOW THE...


KNOW HOW HE GETS IN A BAD MOOD SOMETIMES? THINK THAT, BUT ALL THE TIME.
JUS' ALWAYS ON EDGE FROM EVERYTHIN'.
"HE'S GOT MORE POWER'N HE KNOWS WHAT TO DO WITH,"
HIS GRAMMA WOULD ALWAYS SAY.
ANYWAY, BACK THEN KOU-CHAN WAS REAL SCARY, AN' EVERYONE HATED HIM!
...
HEY.
WHY YOU BLABBIN' ABOUT THE DISTANT PAST?
I DUNNO. WHY YOU LOOKIN' SO UPSET ABOUT IT?
IF YOU WANNA KNOW, WHY NOT ASK HIM YOURSELF?
YOU'RE GOIN' OUT WITH HIM, RIGHT?

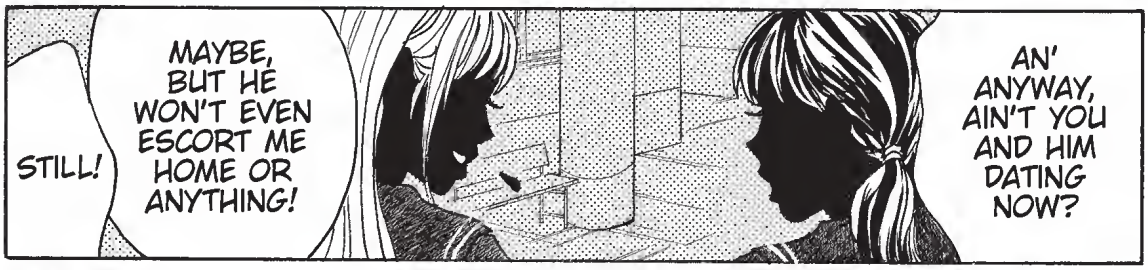

SO, GET THIS.
WELL ...
I GUESS THAT'S TRUE.
KOU-CHAN'S GRAMMA PUTS THOSE PRAYER BEADS ON HIM, AND SUDDENLY HE DOESN'T GO WILD ANYMORE!
OH, AND ALSO, KOU-CHAN'S GRAMMA HAD THESE SUPERNATURAL POWERS, RIGHT?
...
...SUPER-NATURAL?
LIKE, SHE COULD SEE AND HEAR STUFF NOBODY ELSE COULD.
WHAT? UH?
CHINGA DINGA
AAH!
DINGA DINGA DINGA
WHAT THE-?!
THE FIRE ALARM HAS BEEN TRIG-GERED.
BING BONG BANG BING
PLEASE EXIT THE BUILD-ING IN AN ORDERLY FASHION.

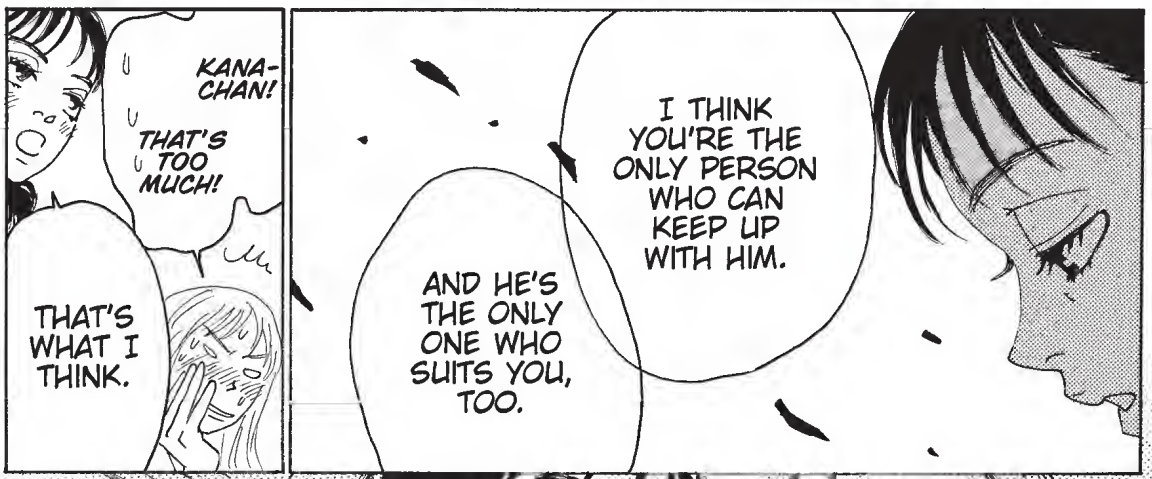
'SCUSE ME!
AT THIS POINT, WE ARE STILL INVESTI-GATING THE CAUSE OF—
AHEM ...
SKEEE
MURMUR
MURMUR
WE PULLED THE FIRE ALARM!
AH?!
CHATTER
CHITTER
STOMP
HOW DARE YOU INCON-VENIENCE THE OTHER STUDENTS!
YOU LITTLE-!
YOUR CLASS WAS PUTTING PEOPLE TO SLEEP,
SO WE HAD A CONFERENCE AND DECIDED TO WAKE THEM UP BY RINGING THE ALARM!

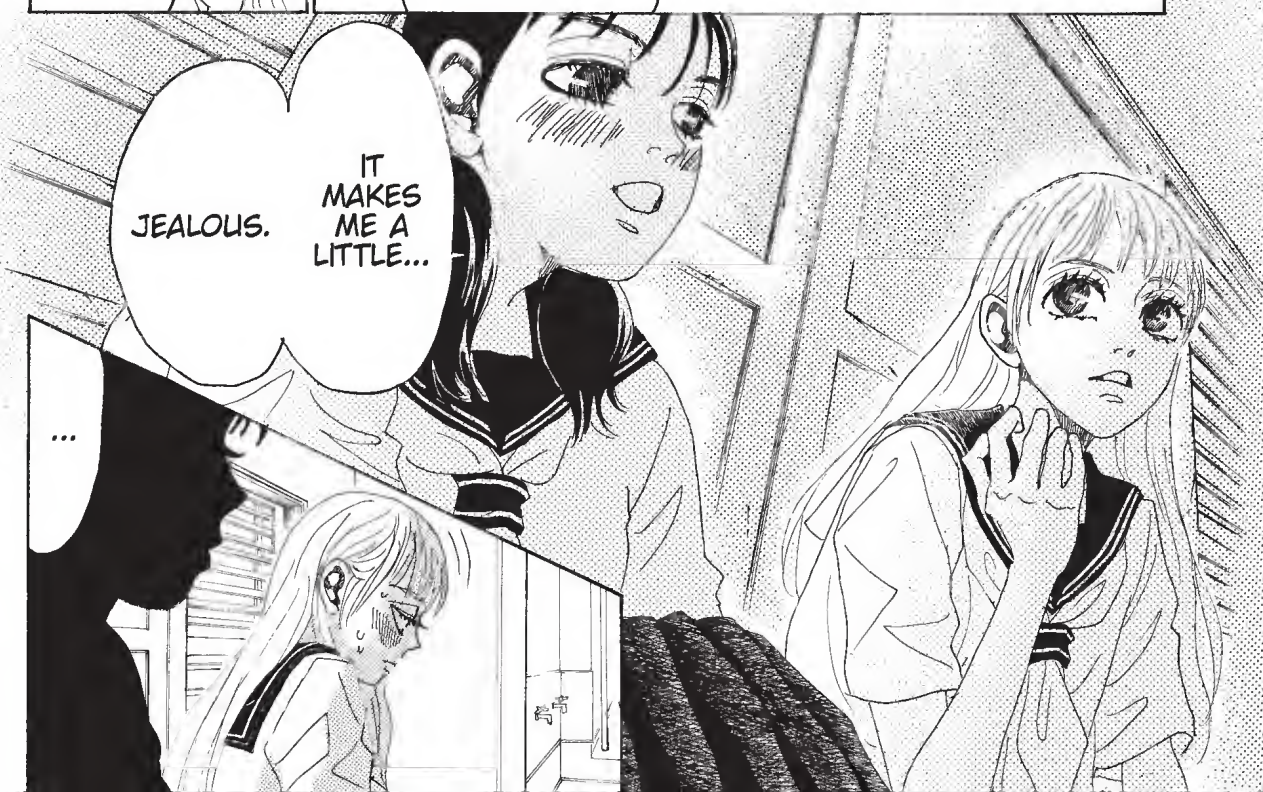
VERY SORRY FOR THE INCONVENIENCE, EVERYONE!
IN EXCHANGE ...
...WHY NOT HAVE SOME OF THIS FUN STUFF?
FLING
HEY! DON'T YOU DARE PICK THAT UP!
IT'S ALL THE STUFF THAT GOT CONFISCATED!
HOH!
PITTER
HA HA HA
PATTER

THAT CLASS IS OUT OF CONTROL.
THERE WAS ALSO THE TIME THEY ALL MADE PAPER AIRPLANES IN CLASS, AND WE HAD TO HAVE AN ASSEMBLY ABOUT IT.
THEY JUST WANT TO STAND OUT.
WOW... GEEZ...
IT DOES SEEM LIKE KOU-CHAN'S CLASS HAS A LOT OF FUN, THOUGH...
I'M A LITTLE JEALOUS.
AH... THAT SURE WAS FUN.
OH, SUZU-KA!
YOU WERE CALLED TO THE OFFICE WITH THEM A FEW DAYS AGO!
...
YEAH, SEE, I HAD THIS RING I REALLY LIKED, AN' IT GOT TAKEN, RIGHT?
SO I TOLD KOU AND THEM, AND...
...HE WAS LIKE, YEAH, THAT TEACHER PISSES ME OFF, TOO!
SUZUKA KUNIHIRO IS JUST DOING THOSE THINGS TO TRY TO GET CLOSE TO KOU-CHAN.

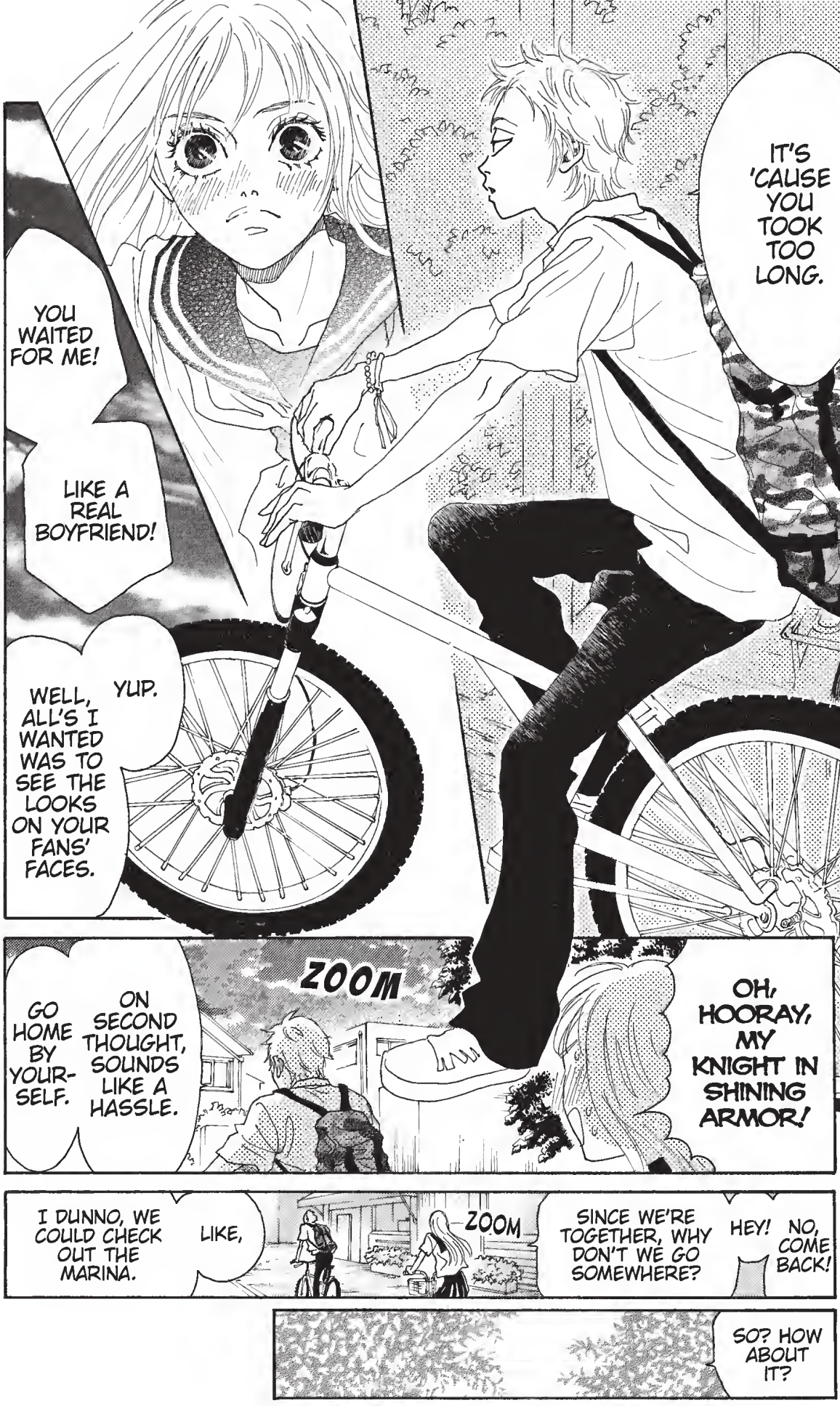
NOTHING DOING!
YOU GET TO BE IN HIS CLASS AND HAVE FUN.
WOW, I ENVY YOU, THOUGH.
I GUESS SO.
HUH ...

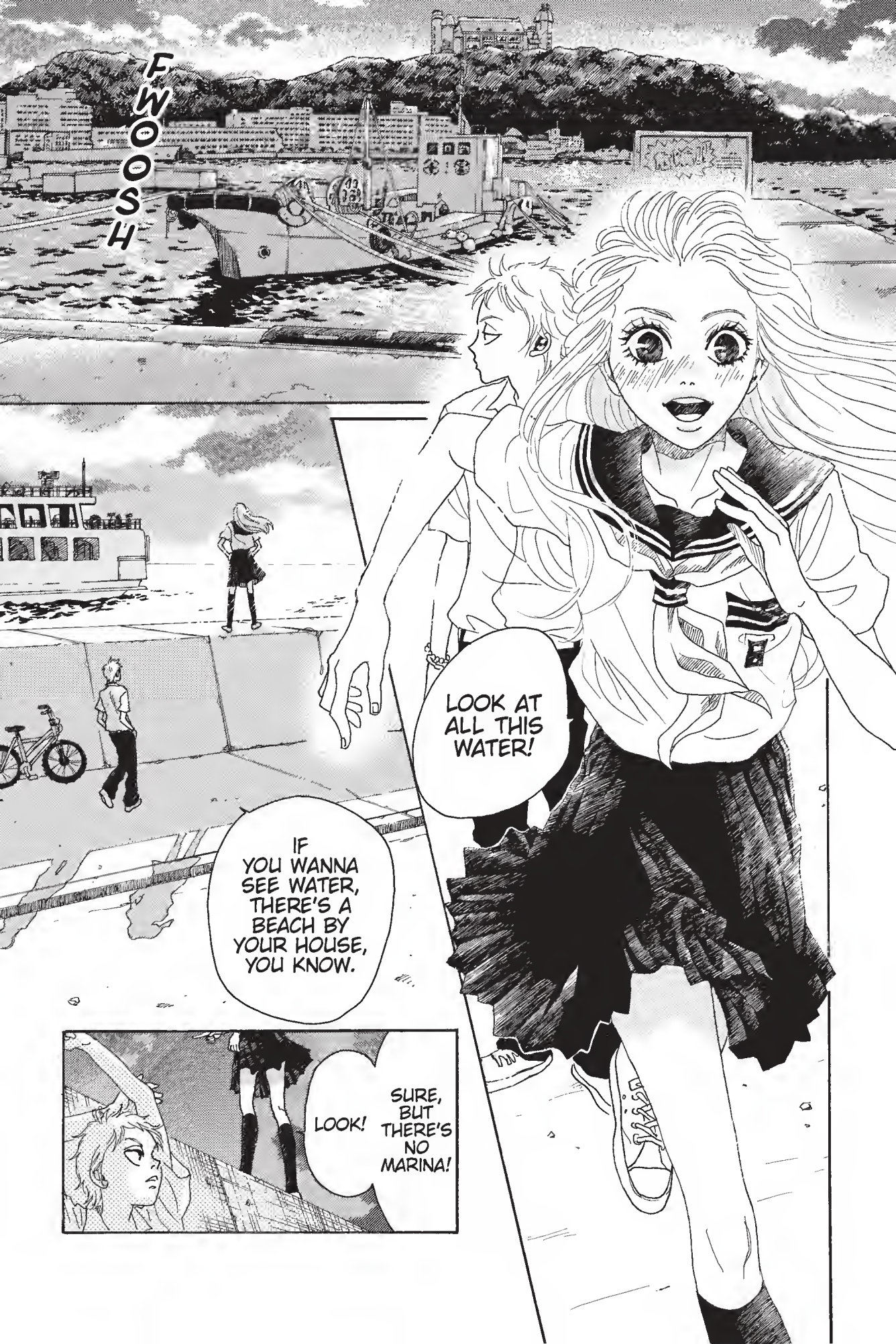

STILL!
MAYBE, BUT HE WON'T EVEN ESCORT ME HOME OR ANYTHING!
AN' ANYWAY, AIN'T YOU AND HIM DATING NOW?

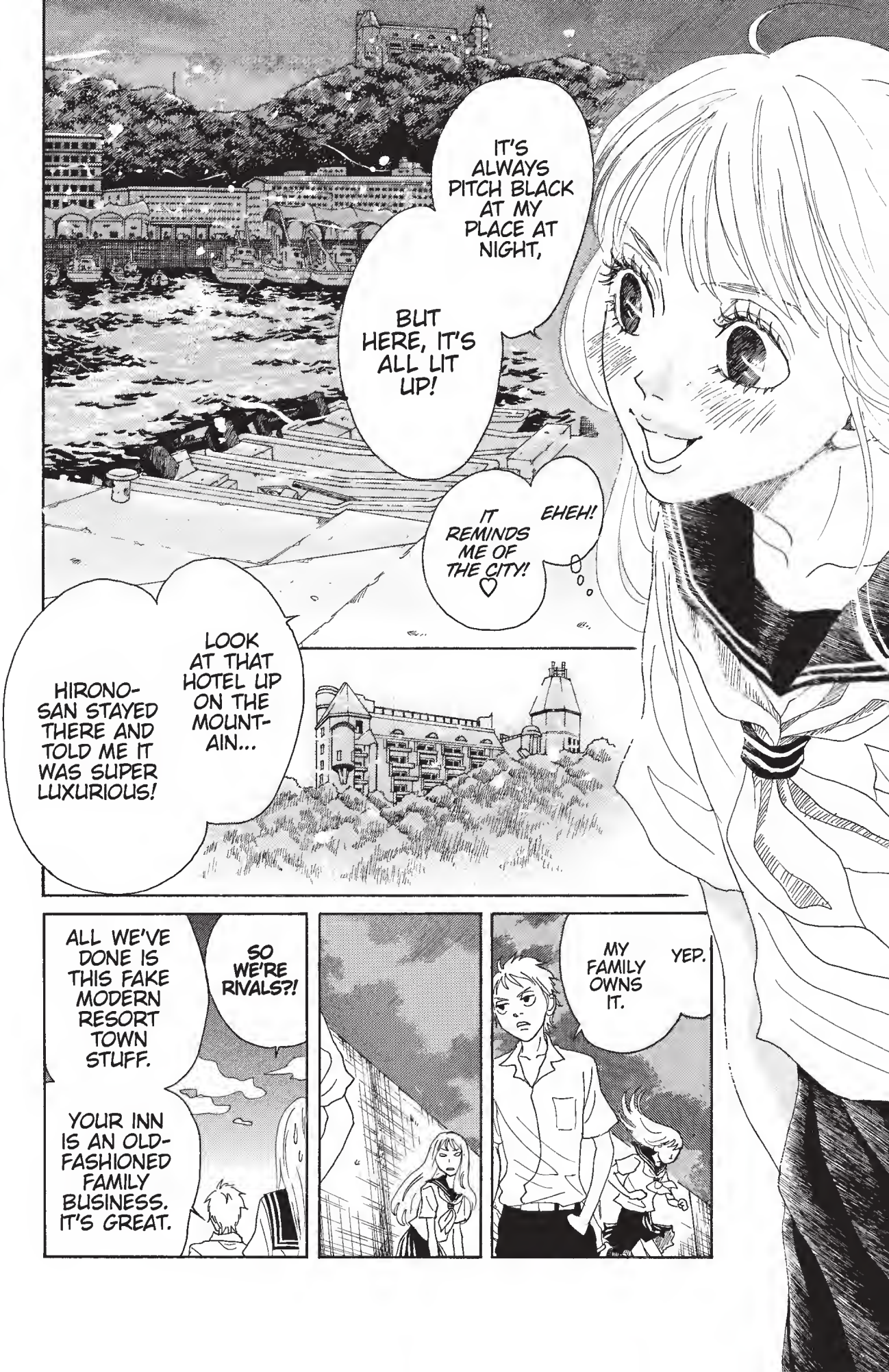

KANA-CHAN!
THAT'S TOO MUCH!
THAT'S WHAT I THINK.
I THINK YOU'RE THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN KEEP UP WITH HIM.
AND HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO SUITS YOU, TOO.


IT MAKES ME A LITTLE...
JEALOUS.
...

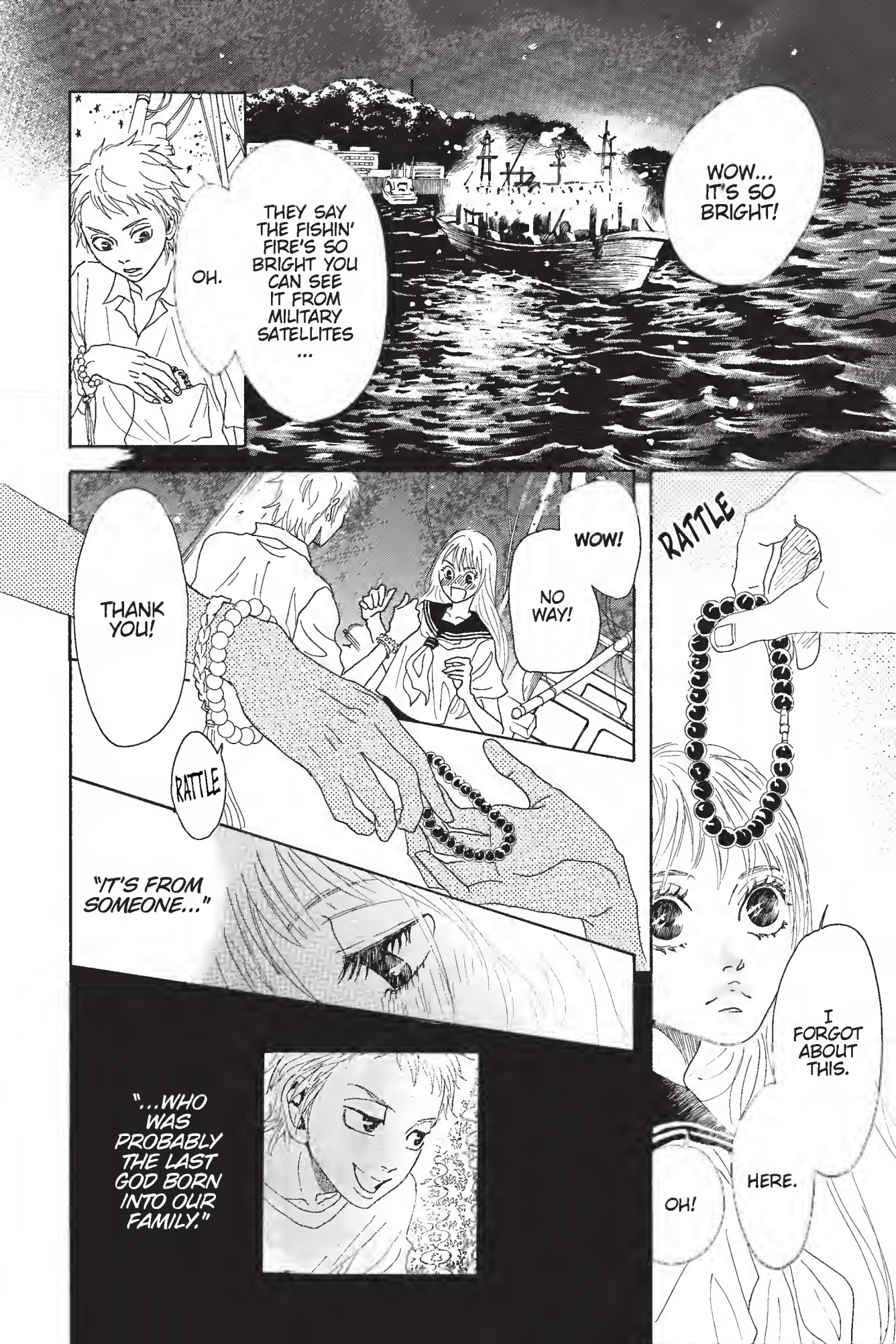
...KANA-CHAN MIGHT STILL HAVE FEELINGS FOR HIM, TOO.
I THINK...
HASEGAWA? HE WENT HOME ALREADY.
KENDO CLUB
カチャ CHACK
WHAT'S EVEN THE POINT OF GOING OUT, THEN?
...
カチャカチャ CHACO
カチャ CLICK
OH!
KOU-CHAN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH MY—
WHAM
ARGH!
YOU STUCK YOUR GUM IN MY BELL!
WA HA HA HA!
NOW YOU CAN'T RING IT!
CHING— CH—


IT'S 'CAUSE YOU TOOK TOO LONG.
YOU WAITED FOR ME!
LIKE A REAL BOYFRIEND!
YUP.
WELL, ALL'S I WANTED WAS TO SEE THE LOOKS ON YOUR FANS' FACES.
OH, HOORAY, MY KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR!
ZOOM
ON SECOND THOUGHT, SOUNDS LIKE A HASSLE.
GO HOME BY YOUR-SELF.
I DUNNO, WE COULD CHECK OUT THE MARINA.
LIKE,
ZOOM
SINCE WE'RE TOGETHER, WHY DON'T WE GO SOMEWHERE?
HEY!
NO, COME BACK!
SO? HOW ABOUT IT?

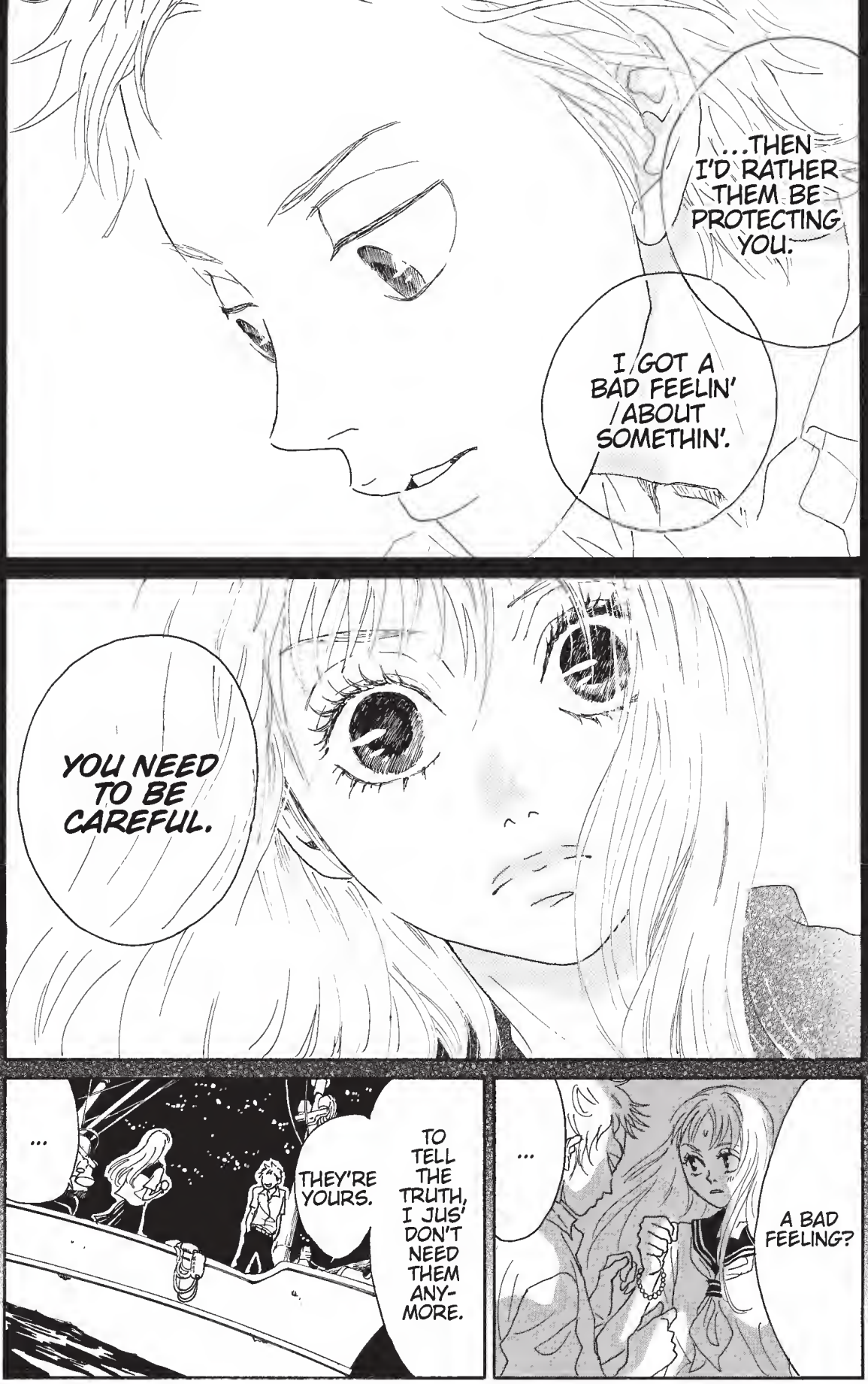

FWOOSH
LOOK AT ALL THIS WATER!
IF YOU WANNA SEE WATER, THERE'S A BEACH BY YOUR HOUSE, YOU KNOW.
SURE, BUT THERE'S NO MARINA!
LOOK!

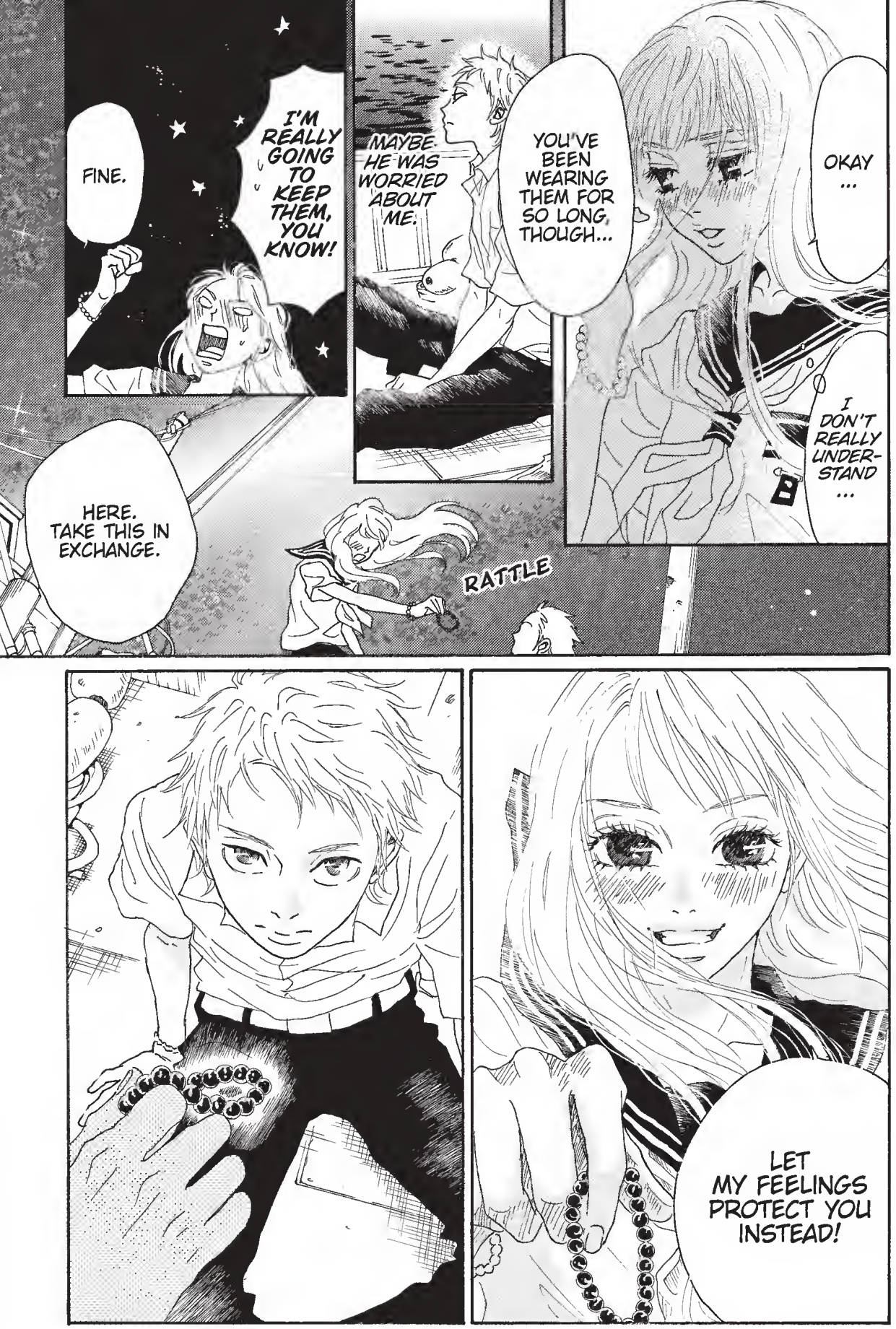

IT'S ALWAYS PITCH BLACK AT MY PLACE AT NIGHT,
BUT HERE, IT'S ALL LIT UP!
EHEH! IT REMINDS ME OF THE CITY! ♡
LOOK AT THAT HOTEL UP ON THE MOUNT-AIN...
HIRONO-SAN STAYED THERE AND TOLD ME IT WAS SUPER LUXURIOUS!
SO WE'RE RIVALS?!
ALL WE'VE DONE IS THIS FAKE MODERN RESORT TOWN STUFF.
YOUR INN IS AN OLD-FASHIONED FAMILY BUSINESS. IT'S GREAT.
YEP. MY FAMILY OWNS IT.

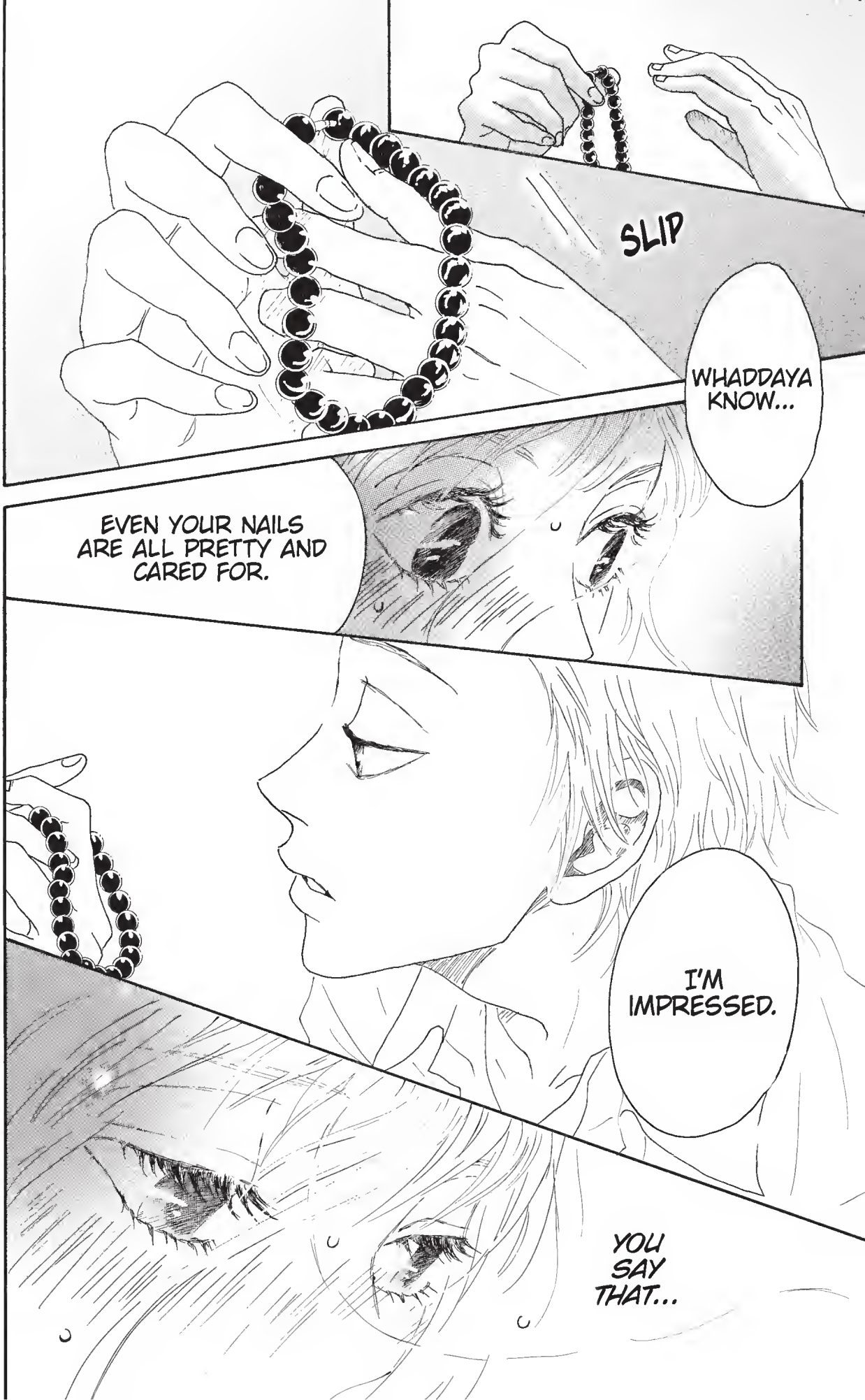
HUP.
YOU CALL IT OLD-FASHIONED, BUT IT'S JUST RUN-DOWN...
RELAX.
MY FAMILY OWNS IT.
AH—
OKAY, I KNOW I WANTED TO GET ON THE BOAT, TOO, BUT...
WAIT—
LOOKIT THAT ONE THAT'S ALL LIT UP. THAT'S A SQUID FISHIN' BOAT.
HEY!
"HASEGAWA-SAN IS AN EXCEPTION."
...I SEE.

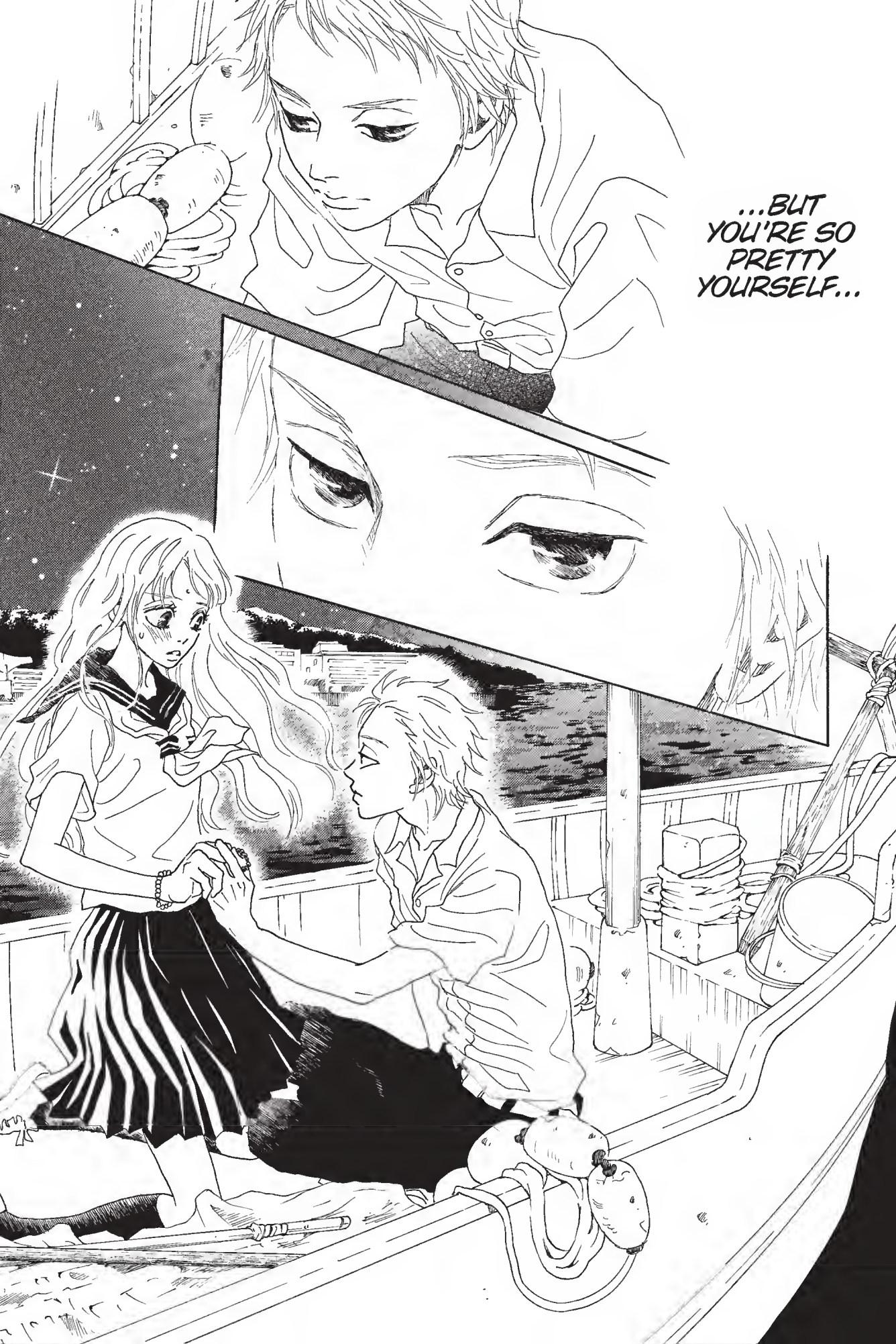

WOW... IT'S SO BRIGHT!
THEY SAY THE FISHIN' FIRE'S SO BRIGHT YOU CAN SEE IT FROM MILITARY SATELLITES ...
OH.
WOW!
NO WAY!
THANK YOU!
RATTLE
RATTLE
"IT'S FROM SOMEONE..."
"...WHO WAS PROBABLY THE LAST GOD BORN INTO OUR FAMILY."
I FORGOT ABOUT THIS.
HERE.
OH!

"I WAS TOLD TO WEAR IT SO I WOULDN'T BE BAD."
YOUR PRAYER BEADS...
YOU SAID THEY'RE A MEMENTO FROM YOUR GRAND-MOTHER.
RATTLE
YUP. HERE. TAKE 'EM.
WHAT?! UH?
AH!
IT'S JUST A PLACEBO EFFECT.
BUT... IF YOU TAKE THEM OFF, THE SUPER-NATURAL POWER WILL—
PLACEBO? BUT—
IF THEY REALLY DO HAVE SOME KINNA "SUPERNATURAL POWER" OR WHATEVER...

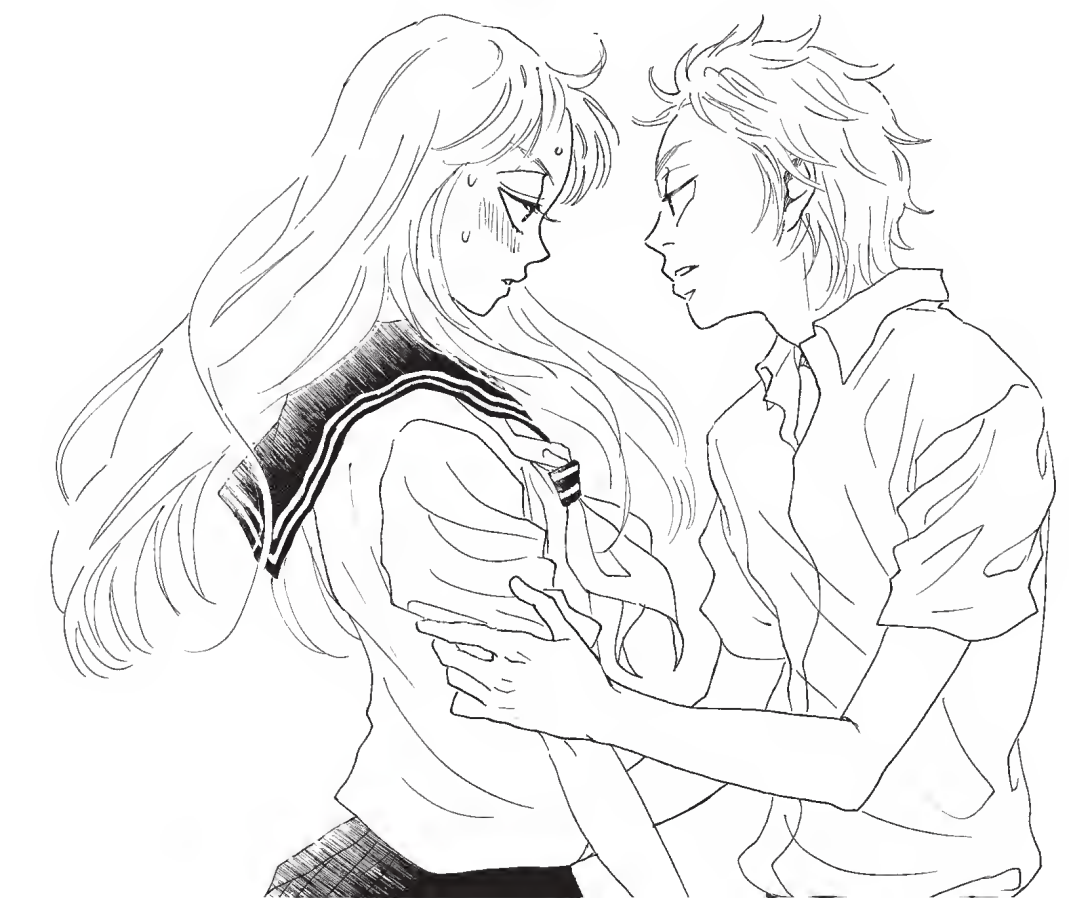

...THEN I'D RATHER THEM BE PROTECTING YOU.
I GOT A BAD FEELIN' /ABOUT SOMETHIN'.
YOU NEED TO BE CAREFUL.
...
THEY'RE YOURS.
TO TELL THE TRUTH, I JUS' DON'T NEED THEM ANY-MORE.
...
A BAD FEELING?


I DON'T REALLY UNDER-STAND ...
OKAY ...
YOU'VE BEEN WEARING THEM FOR SO LONG, THOUGH...
MAYBE HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT ME.
I'M REALLY GOING TO KEEP THEM, YOU KNOW!
FINE.
RATTLE
HERE. TAKE THIS IN EXCHANGE.
LET MY FEELINGS PROTECT YOU INSTEAD!

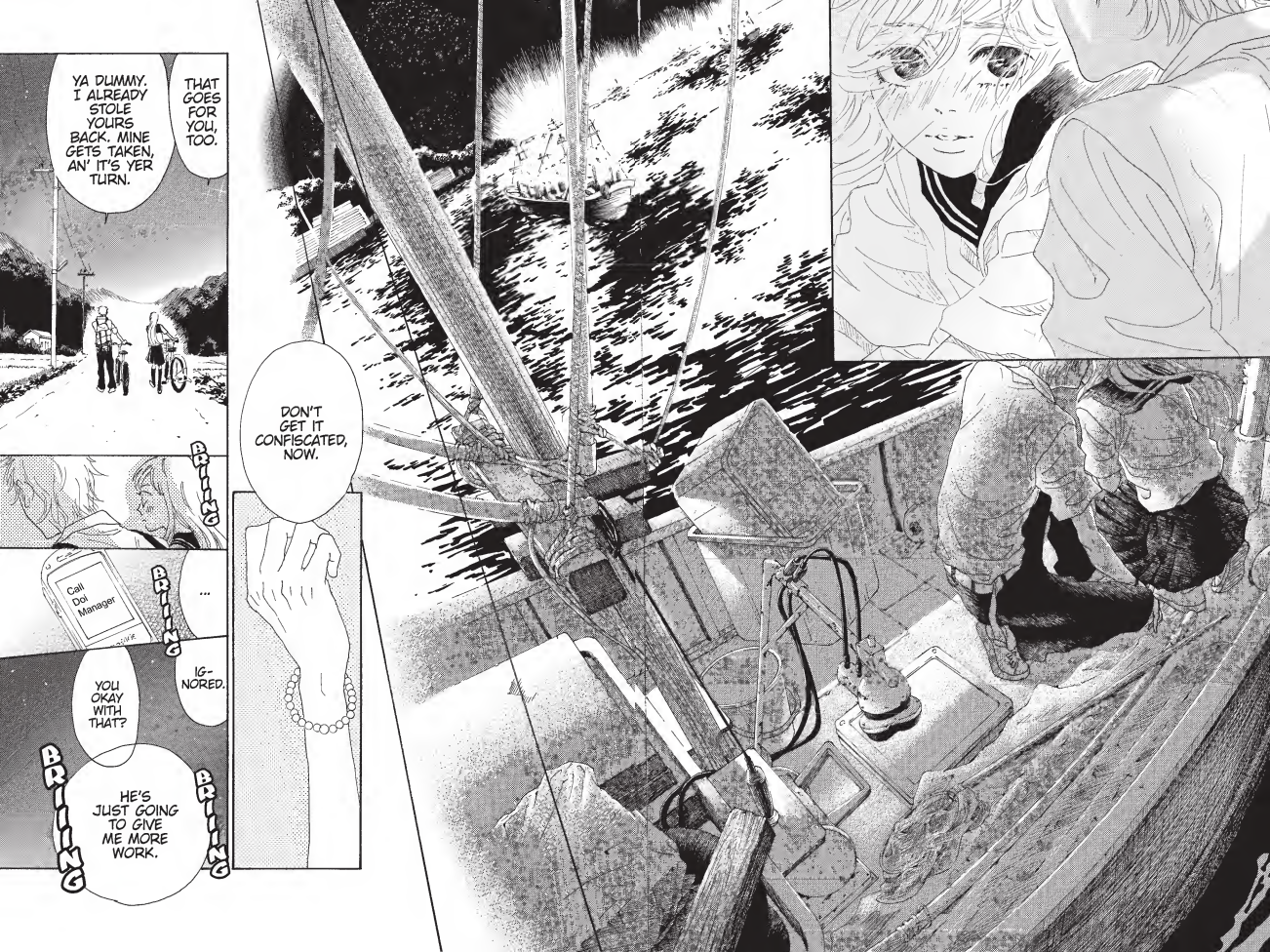

SLIP
WHADDAYA KNOW...
EVEN YOUR NAILS ARE ALL PRETTY AND CARED FOR.
I'M IMPRESSED.
YOU SAY THAT...

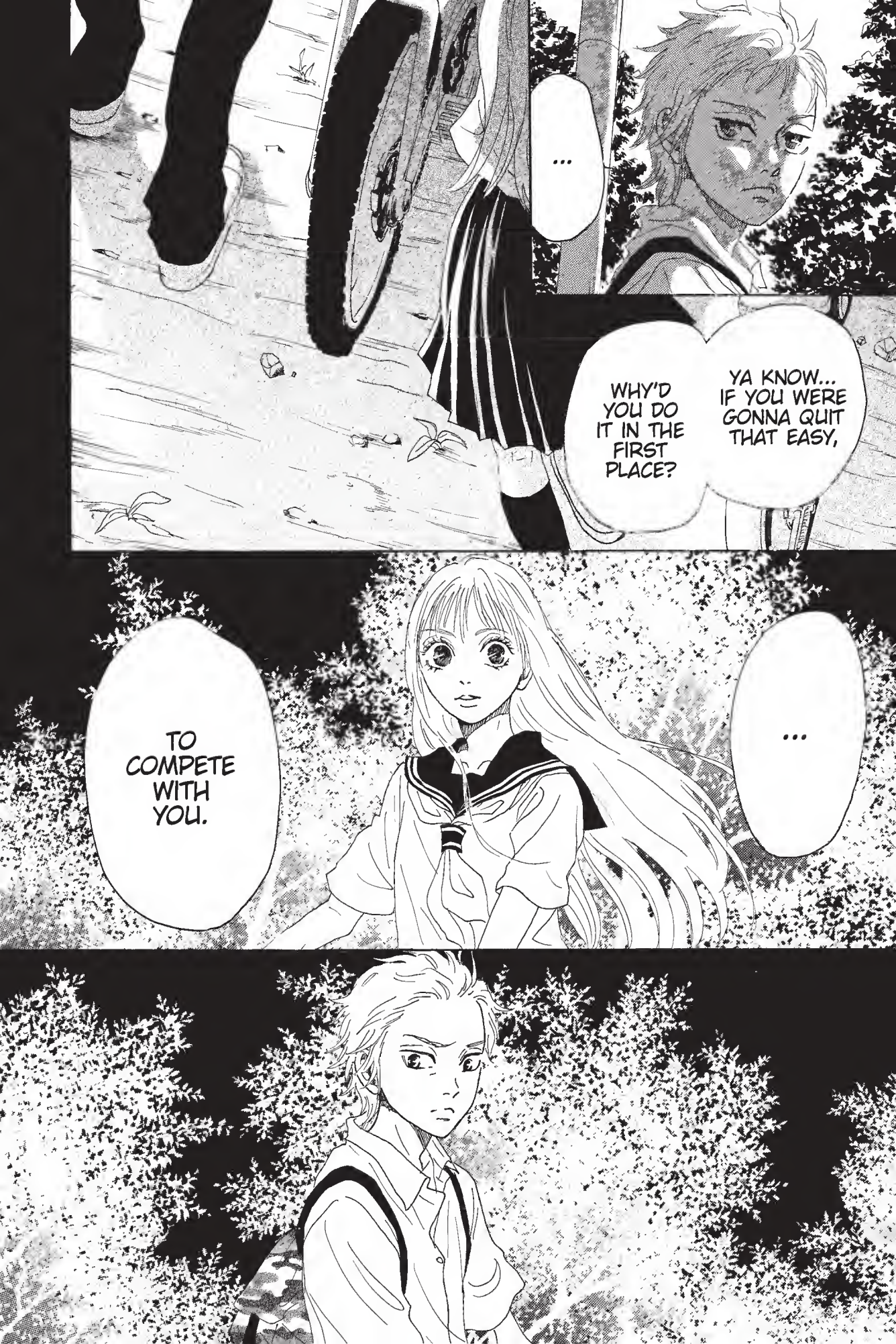

...BUT YOU'RE SO PRETTY YOURSELF...

MM!



I STOPPED SHORT THAT TIME A YEAR BACK.
...YEAH.
I DID IT.
HE HE HE...
YEAH, YOU DID.


YA DUMMY. I ALREADY STOLE YOURS BACK. MINE GETS TAKEN, AN' IT'S YER TURN.
THAT GOES FOR YOU, TOO.
DON'T GET IT CONFISCATED, NOW.
BRIIING
BRIIING
Call Doi Manager
...
IG-NORED.
BRIIING
YOU OKAY WITH THAT?
BRIIING
HE'S JUST GOING TO GIVE ME MORE WORK.
BRIIING


...
YA KNOW... IF YOU WERE GONNA QUIT THAT EASY,
WHY'D YOU DO IT IN THE FIRST PLACE?
...
TO COMPETE WITH YOU.

AFTER ALL...
...
SURE, I GUESS.
AND IT GAVE ME THE CONFIDENCE TO BE NEAR YOU.
IT'S NOT LIKE I REGRET IT OR ANYTHING. I HAD FUN.
...
WHAT?
I AL-READY HAVE EVERY-THING I WANT.
HINEMOSU INN
SEE YOU LATER!
AND THANKS FOR SEEING ME HOME!
...

AAH...
THE WORLD IS SO FULL OF WONDER, AND I CAN DO ANYTHING AT ALL.
AS LONG AS I HAVE KOU-CHAN, THINGS WILL BE ALL RIGHT.
WHAP
DASH
SLIDE
TIP TAP
TIP TAP
KOU-CHAN...
OH, KOU-CHAN!

STARE
112カ
0:51:23
REC
HAH...
HAH...
STARE
AAH... NATSU-ME ...
HAH...
HAH...
HAH...
HAH...
THAT'S IT... GIVE IT EVERY-THING...
CONTINUED IN DROWNING LOVE VOLUME THREE

Drowning Love

Drowning Love 2

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English digital edition published by Kodansha Advanced Media, LLC, San Francisco.

www.kodanshacomics.com

ISBN: 9781682336915

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Translatotion by Devon Corwin
Letterering by Rina Mapa
Editing by Jesika Brooks
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